

On Top Of The News

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Friday, August 21, 2009



INSIDE TODAY
WORLD NEWS

LOW TURNOUT



Afghan presidential candidate and current President Hamid Karzai shows his ink-stained finger after voting in the presidential election at a polling station in Kabul, Afghanistan, Thursday, Aug. 20, 2009.

See International News on
Page B7

SPORTS NEWS

INSAIN BOLT



Jamaica's Usain Bolt celebrates setting a new World Record as he wins the Men's 200m final during the World Athletics Championships in Berlin on Thursday, Aug. 20, 2009.

See Sports Today on Page B10

For third Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival

Organizers announce spectacular line-up of artists

ORANJESTAD - 'Without music, life would be a mistake' is the slogan of the third edition of the upcoming Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival, which kicks off next week with a 'warming up series' at various restaurants on the island. The finale takes place in the weekend of September 4 and 5, when top acts will perform on one of the stages surrounding Cas di Cultura. The Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival 2009 promises to be spectacular, with a line-up of artists that many festivals would be jealous of. Sponsored by the Prins



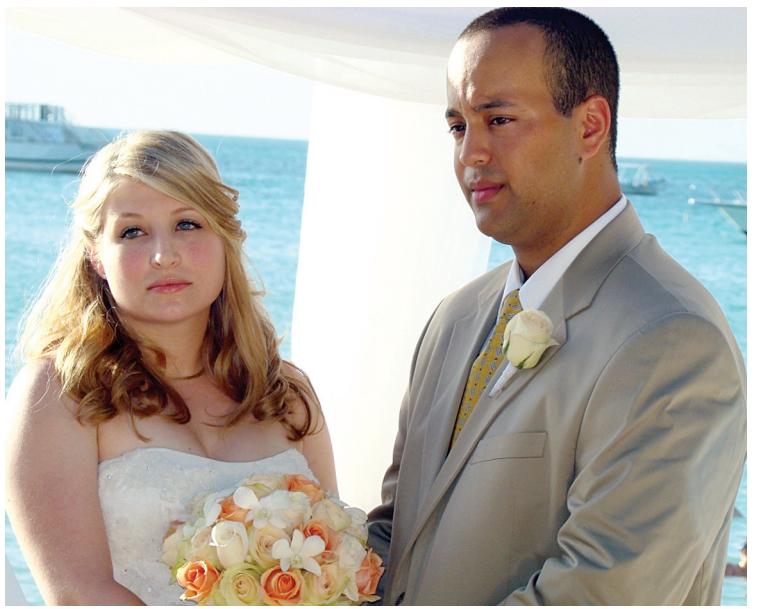
Bernhard Cultuurfonds, the organizers have managed to contract outstanding artists. The Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival started in 2007. Fashioned after the legendary North Sea Jazz Festival in Holland, there are several stages and the possibility to walk back and forth between performances. This makes for most entertaining evenings:



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PALM BEACH — This past weekend, New Jersey couple Valerie Lohsen and Steven Gayol were joined by 34 family members and friends for a romantic sunset wedding on Palm Beach.

The magical toes-in-the-sand ceremony, as well as a bevy of wedding festivities, was coordinated by the special events and wedding team at The Westin Resort, Aruba, headed by Inge van Roon and wedding specialist Jancis Tromp. When it came to choosing a locale for this special day, Aruba was at the top of the list, especially since Steven has been coming to Aruba since he was seven-years old!

Joining Valerie and Steven were her father Ray and his wife Norma, her sister Sabrina and her brother-in-law Kevin; on the groom's side were parents Rene and Maria, as well as sisters Stephanie and Vivian, and brothers-in-law Michael and Keith. Reverend Gregory Lyder officiated the ceremony, and "Steel



Emotions" provided the music.

Following the ceremony, guests enjoyed cocktails at

Westin's al fresco Sirocco Lounge and dinner and dancing in the Starwood Gallery. □

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October 9 & 10 for the Aruba Music Festival

Earth, Wind & Fire to perform in Aruba

ORANJESTAD — Earlier this week, the Aruba Tourism Authority announced that the legendary band Earth, Wind & Fire will perform at the 8th Annual Aruba Music Festival to be held October 9 & 10. Earth, Wind & Fire is simply one of the most important, innovative, and celebrated contemporary Pop/R&B music forces of the 20th century. The band has had a remarkable career spanning over four decades with accolades, awards and record-breaking achievements.

Earth, Wind & Fire's signature sound is not easily categorized and since its inception has been profoundly influential... musically, socially, and spiritually.

The musical vision has fused Pop, R&B, Rock, Latin, Funk, Jazz, and African Music into one unique sound. Successfully breaking all musical genre boundaries with 23 albums, Earth, Wind & Fire have recorded eight #1 R&B singles and eight Double Platinum Top 10 Pop Albums over their career.

Earth, Wind & Fire have received 20 Grammy Award nominations and have won six awards as a group; additionally its founding members individually (Maurice White & Philip Bailey) have each won two, totaling eight Grammy Awards. In 2004, Earth, Wind & Fire received the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences (N.A.R.A.S.) Signature Governor's Award. They have earned more than 50 Gold and Platinum albums and have sold over 90 million albums worldwide earning them a place on the list of best selling music artists of all time. VH1 ranked Earth, Wind & Fire number 60 on their list of the 100 Greatest Artists of Rock & Roll. Rolling Stone Magazine declared the group "changed the sound of black pop."

President Obama invited Earth, Wind & Fire to perform in the East Room at the White House for the first social event of the new administration. Earth, Wind & Fire made international news when President Obama declared in an interview with Rolling Stone Magazine that the group was among his favorites. He said they are

"rhythm and blues and pop staples for me."

Earth, Wind & Fire's career achievements have been acknowledged and earned them their place in musical history. Earth, Wind & Fire have been inducted into Rock and Roll Hall of Fame (2000); they have received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame (1995) and Hollywood's Rockwalk (2003). That same year they received the Vocal Group Hall of Fame Award (2003). The music industry and fans have bestowed Lifetime Achievement honors

from ASCAP (Rhythm & Soul Heritage Award - 2002), NAACP (Hall of Fame - 1994) and the BET Awards (Life Time Achievement Award 2002). Two Earth, Wind & Fire classic songs have been inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame: "That's The Way of The World" (2004) and "Shining Star" (2007). Earth, Wind & Fire have 12 American Music Awards nominations and four awards and the group received the Entertainer Award at the 2009 TV Land Awards.

Earth, Wind & Fire are the first African-American performers to sell out Madison Square Garden and to receive the MSG Gold Ticket Award. Earth, Wind & Fire is the first African-American group to receive the Columbia Records Crystal Globe Award for selling the most albums internationally.

The principals of Earth, Wind & Fire: Philip Bailey, Verdine White, and Ralph Johnson have received honorary doctorate degrees from the Arts & Media College at Columbia College in Chicago. Co-Founders Philip Bailey and Maurice White have earned honorary doctorate degrees at Berklee College of Music.

The group's Grammy Awards have exemplified Earth, Wind

& Fire's relevance and the connection with contemporary R&B and Pop artists by showcasing the group twice in the 2005 and 2007 television event. The musical highlight at the 2005 broadcast was Earth, Wind & Fire joining forces with Outkast, in what was the Hip Hop group's last television appearance together. In 2007, Earth, Wind & Fire performed on the Grammys with the top nominees Ludacris and Mary J. Blige in a heartfelt poignant message to raise the social conciseness of teenage run-aways.

Many of today's contemporary Grammy Award winning music artists have named Earth, Wind & Fire as their musical influence or have announced that they are die hard fans, including: Beyonce, Usher and Prince (he thanked Earth, Wind & Fire in his induction acceptance speech at the British Hall of Fame). Alicia Keys proclaims that Earth, Wind & Fire is "the best band ever."

Mary J. Blige has shown her appreciation to the band by re-recording one of the bands hit songs "Imagination." Miles Davis described Earth, Wind & Fire as his "all time favorite band" saying "they have everything (horns, electric guitar, singers, and more) in one band" Quincy Jones has proclaimed himself to be the "biggest fan of Earth, Wind & Fire since day one."

The Black Eyed Peas took the stage with Earth, Wind & Fire for a performance at the Super Bowl XXIX, and then an encore by opening the 57th Annual Primetime Emmy Awards together.

Earth, Wind & Fire's songs have been covered by recording artists Jerry Garcia Band, Point of Grace, D'Angelo, Lenny White, Patti LaBelle, The Manhattans, Wynonna Judd,



Yoland Adams, Incognito, Chaka Khan, Dionne Warwick, the Vienna Boys choir, Herb Albert, Musiq and Tito Puente. Their songs have also been sampled by numerous artists some of which include: A Tribe

Called Quest, Wyclef Jean, Jay-Z, Amerie, The Fugees, LL Cool J, De La Soul, Common, Quenn Pen, Naughty by Nature, P. Diddy, The Roots, Will Smith, Cee-Lo, Mc Lyte and Lisa Left Eye Lopes. □

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Friday afternoon with DJ Jeroen at Bugaloe



PALM BEACH - Rhythm-driven DJ Jeroen is getting the vibes going, the adrenaline surging and the blood pumping

on Fridays, when the popular local disc jockey is playing his music in beach bar Bugaloe. From 5 to 10 pm you can see



this energetic man in action and listen to his easy lounge music early in the evening. Soothe your souls at sunset, is his motto. Jeroen's music changes as darkness falls and dancing gets underway. Bugaloe, which is a great hang-out for locals as well as for visitors, has an extended menu, by the way. Choose a 'broodje frikandel' or 'broodje kroket', snacks that the Dutch crave, or a healthy grouper special or the fish platter.

So don't forget to come by at Bugaloe on Fridays to



hear DJ Jeroen play, and start the weekend on a high note. Happy Hour at the beach bar, located on the De Palm Pier between the Riu Palace and the Radisson Resort, is from 5 to 6 pm, with special prices for Amstel Bright and mojitos.



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Thriving Herb Garden at Larimar Spa



PALM BEACH – Larimar Spa, at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa grows its own herbs, on the side of its beautiful facility, right on Palm Beach. The herb beds serve a triple purpose: they are very decorative and fragrant, and they inspire the creation of all natural massage oils, aromatherapies, exfoliations and scrubs.

The garden also grows Aloe, an essential component of the spa's famed Aloe Vera and Rum Massage and the Mellow Aloe Wrap.

Last but not least, says Director of Spa Services Bruce Cavan the abundant and flourishing herb garden of Larimar Spa supplies the resort's 4-diamond rated American steakhouse, the Sunset Grille with a cornucopia of fresh lemon grass, parsley, chives, sage, thyme, rosemary and mint, also serving the resort bars for the preparation of delicious Cuban Mojitos. Cavan reports he started experimenting with soil and seeds when Larimar

Spa first opened a number of years ago. Assisted by enthusiastic gardeners, Larimar Spa's herb garden thrived, sheltered from wind & kissed by the sun. The fresh herbs were welcomed with great appreciation in the kitchen where executive chef Hector Espinoza reports that once

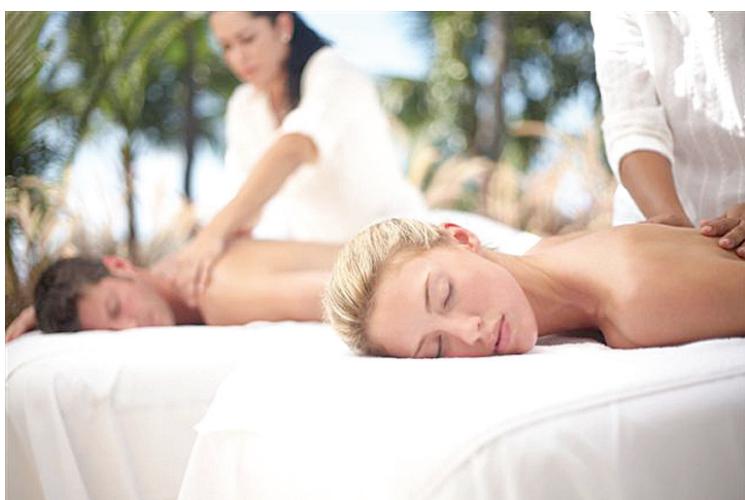
you go fresh, you never look back.

Previously dependent on the availability of fresh herbs from suppliers Espinoza is also applauding Cavan for his future initiatives which include growing tomatoes, radishes, beetroot and a few delicate varieties of salad greens.

Next time you have an aromatherapy massage or Aloe-anything at Larimar spa, you can rest assured that the fragrant ingredients are home-grown, and the rum made here!

For visitors, Larimar spa also offers Larimar Spa vacation packages which include:

Accommodations, Spa treatments, and a welcome martini. Named on the Condé Nast Traveler HOT LIST, Larimar Spa provides the perfect sanctuary from stress, worries and the hectic every day life back home. Larimar Spa offers a variety of massages, advanced skin care therapies, exfoliating, nourishing and detoxifying body treatments, in 13,000 square feet of indulgence with nine treatment rooms, a full service salon, and state-of-the-art fitness center. Local may just follow the signs, with dedicated parking on the side of the building! □



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George has concerns about dollarization

P H I L I P S B U R G -

National Alliance (NA) Island Councilman and Parliamentarian George Pantophlet is concerned about impact dollarization would have on the local economy if adopted when St. Maarten becomes a country within the kingdom.

Pantophlet said there are many questions about how the move to the US dollar as the main currency will affect everything from salaries, investments and savings account interest rates. Guilder savings accounts have a higher interest rate and thus a better return for

residents.

Pantophlet said that seigniorage (the net revenue from issuing of currency) has also not been addressed. "What will it cost us to have the money printed since it is not our currency? What requirements will the US Federal Reserve place on the islands and what needs to be in place to meet them?"

En route to a decision about dollarization, the parliamentarian said governments, economists and other stakeholders must examine what happened in the Netherlands with the

introduction of the euro several years ago and the hurdles that had to be and are still being crossed. "There were numerous complaints from the public about businesses and other organisations just changing the sign in front of the products from Dutch guilders to euros."

He wants to know how salaries would be calculated if dollarization was introduced here. "Will someone who earns NAf. 3,600 get US \$3,600 or US \$2,000 instead?"

Rent payments wouldn't be much affected by dollarization because most amounts are already quoted in US dollars due to the island's de facto dollar

economy, he pointed out.

The dollar is widely used here, primarily because the main tourist market is the United States.

Dollarization as an option for new countries St. Maarten and Curaçao is the topic for a high level forum slated for Curaçao on Monday. Pantophlet hopes that his questions will be resolved during the forum. The islands have already decided to have a joint Central Bank in the new constitutional setting expected to be in place by October 2010. Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba (BES) have already decided on dollarization when they become public entities of the Dutch Kingdom next

year.

He further questioned if dollarization would mean no Central Banks for the new countries. "I am almost sure that these have been addressed by the experts [on Monday] but one never knows - things can be overlooked at times. It is good that government will be present to hear what the probable consequences [of dollarization] are going to be."

"We should not forget that a political decision was taken to have one Central Bank with equal authority and a rotating president. It will be interesting to hear what decisions will be taken in the future on this matter," Pantophlet said. □



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Marriott Surf Club Rooms Division Promotes Jasmin Maduro And Priscilla Burgos

PALM BEACH – The Aruba Marriott is proud to announce the promotions of two associates in management positions. Marriott's Aruba Surf Club appointed Jasmin Maduro to Assistant Rooms Director and Priscilla Burgos to Front Office Manager.

Jasmin began her career at the Aruba Marriott Resort and Stellaris Casino in 2002, working as Front Desk Manager and continued her dedication to the resort with a promotion to Assistant Front Office Manager.

As great result of hard work and perseverance, Jasmin moved to Marriott's Aruba Surf Club in 2004, where she held her former position as Front Office Manager. Jasmin brings a wealth of experience with as she continues her current position as Assistant Rooms Director.

Together with Assistant Rooms Director Claudia

Sanchez they will oversee the room operations of the Marriott's Aruba Surf Club.

Priscilla is one of Marriott's charter team, with 14 years of hard work at the Aruba Marriott. She began her career development at the Aruba Marriott Resort and Stellaris Casino as a housekeeping supervisor.

In 1999, Priscilla moved to the Marriott's Ocean Club where she held the position as Assistant Housekeeping Manager followed by fulfilling the job of Housekeeping Manager at Marriott's Surf Club in 2001.

With a vast amount of guest relations experience and rooms operations, Priscilla will fit right into the position of Front Office Manager.

Both Jasmin and Priscilla have been transitioned in their new positions.

The Aruba Marriott congratulates Priscilla and

Jasmin wishes them the best of luck as they take on their new responsibilities.

Designated among the "World's Best Places to Stay" by Conde Nast Traveler's 2006 Gold List, Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino boasts 411 guestrooms – the most spacious on the island – each with large, private balconies overlooking the sparkling waters of the Caribbean Sea. On property, seven restaurants and cafes provide fare from light to elegant, while the largest casino in Aruba, a 6,500 square-foot spa, free-form swimming pool with cascading waterfalls and high-energy health club offer entertaining diversions.

To obtain more information

call the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino at 888-PARADISE or visit www.arubamarriott.com. □



In the picture: Priscilla Burgos (left), Front Office Manager & Jasmin Maduro (right), Assistant Rooms Director of Marriott's Aruba Surf Club.

THE COOLEST PLACE TO BE IS BUGALOE! Fun and happiness at popular beach bar

PALM BEACH - There is only one Bugaloe on Aruba: it is the hottest place to be cool and the coolest place to be hot.

Friends and fun are the main ingredients at the beach bar, but great food, drinks and music get a good second place. The sunsets, the breeze and the turquoise ocean are right at the top as well, of course.

People from all over the world get together at Bugaloe: they have a few drinks, a bite to eat, they dance and sway and make new friends. If you have gotten curious here and now, check out the website www.bugaloe.com and you will see at one glance what we are talking about. No words will be needed anymore. Surf to the website for the Bugaloe Event Calendar or leave a note in the Guestbook.

Bugaloe is located at De Palm Pier in Palm Beach between RIU Palace and Radisson Resort.

Bugaloe's daily Happy Hours are considered the starting signal for an evening of partying on the island. Locals mingle with visitors and raise their glasses. When you get hungry, order a scrumptious burger, a gourmet pizza, tasty wings or a salad and party on.



The night is young, the world is going crazy and you are right in the middle of a super happening. What's not to like?

Bugaloe Beach Bar puts on live bands on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

Joyride, PM Band, DJ Jeroen and Marisela & Aquarius are playing the stars from the sky. These musical talents draw the crowds, so be there or be square!

For more information go to www.bugaloe.com.

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Muna Habash surprised at Gari N Wasabi



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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba.

Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi's dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba".

Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine

quality cigars. The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and you will get 1 FREE cigar of \$35. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill. Open on Sunday from 9am to 8pm. And also at Tamarind Hotel open from 9am to 1pm. Aruhiba is only available in above mentioned stores. Visit our authentic tobacco farm where cigars are handmade.



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Muna celebrated with a perfect combination of a never-ending flow of champagne & sushi prepared and served by the professional staff of the recently opened new hotspot on Palm Beach Road ~ Gari N Wasabi.

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~

The evening culminated with a sparkling cake that Muna chose to put out with a glass of champagne. From that point on, the champagne continued to flow with the cake and everyone danced continuing to have a good time. □

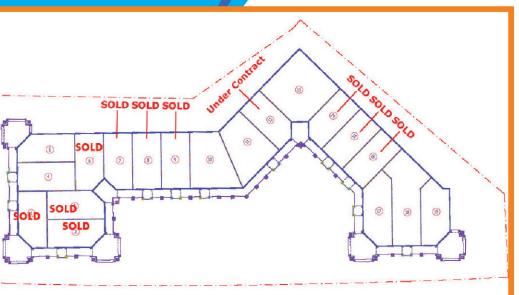


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For third Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival

Organizers announce spectacular line-up of artists



Continued from Front Page

This year will be no different: on Friday evening, September 4, alto saxophone legend David Sanborn from the US and Curaçao-born Izaline Calister are the top acts, together with blues band Cosy Cotton from Holland. All three are getting rave reviews in the trade magazines. David Sanborn is one of the greatest alto sax players in the world. His genre cannot be pinned down: he plays pop, jazz, blues and everything in between. A long line of CD's grace David Sanborn's career.

Izaline Calister comes from Curaçao. She has gained a

terrific reputation in the past few years, but especially at the 2009 North Sea Jazz Festival, where she performed to an ecstatic audience. Her latest CD 'Esperansa' premieres on Aruba in Cas di Cultura on Friday, September 4.

From Holland is the band Cosy Cotton. Together with singer Grana Louise they play the blues, and how! Grana's powerful voice combines flawlessly with the wailing of the blues, and the result is magical. The band was founded in the late '80's, but broke up in 1993. Now Cosy Cotton is back!

The three top acts of Friday

night are assisted by superb local talent: Datapanik, Frankie Yanga, Bilongos, the Muziekschool Big Band and smooth jazz saxophonist Delbert Bernabela. Please take note that when Izaline Calister presents her new CD in the hall of Cas di Cultura, seats are limited. Fans will get another chance to hear her sing, however, as she performs on Saturday on the outside stage too.

Saturday will be stunning as well, music-wise, when Will Bernard and Izaline Calister will show what they are made of. Assisted by el Prove, the Muziekschool Big Band, Gloria Vega, Close Call and Pocket Sneak they precede a much-anticipated group from Cuba called Anacaona. This 12-woman band is going to be something else!

Will Bernard is the man with the smooth, groovy sound coming out of his guitar. He is from California and a touring artist with a long, long list of CD's behind his belt. Bernard's latest album is called Blue Plate Special.

The absolutely superb finale of the festival is the band Anacaona from Cuba, an all-female musical happening. The twelve ladies will be swinging and singing their tails off. Anacaona was founded in the 1930's and it became a stunning international success. During the Cuban



Revolution, however, the band faded into obscurity, but it was reorganized in 1988. Once again, Anacaona is a smash hit: see for yourself!

Of course a festival is not a festival without plenty to eat and drink, but there is even more: a crafts market and an exposition of art inside Cas di Cultura plus several surprise performances are expected.

The festival is sponsored by the Aruba Tourism Authority, the Aruba Airport Authority, Copa Airlines, Polar, Setar, Romar Trading, Freeway, Prins Bernhardt Fonds and Unoca. Points of sale for the tickets are: Cas di Cultura, Super Food, Cliffix, Magic FM, Moomba, Café the Plaza, Mambo Jambo, Amazing and The Entertainment Group.



HEALTH

Aruba TODAY

Adult video gamers often overweight, depressed



Guests play the new video game "Madden NFL '09" at the Madden NFL 09 VIP Premiere party hosted by EA Sports and XBox in Los Angeles, California August 7, 2008.

REUTERS/Fred Prouser

NEW YORK (Reuters Health) – Teens aren't the only ones glued to the video game console. According to a new survey, the average video gamer in the U.S. today is 35 years old -- and not all that healthy physically or emotionally.

According to the survey released this week, the typical adult video game player is overweight, introverted and

may be a little bit depressed. The Internet-based survey involved adults aged 19 to 90 years old from the Seattle-Tacoma area, who were asked various questions about their health, as well as their media habits.

Of the 552 respondents (ages 19 to 90 years), 249 - a little more than 45 percent - identified themselves as video-game players -- the majority

of them men (56 percent). In a report in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, Dr. James B. Weaver III, of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, and colleagues say they found "measurable" associations between playing video games and health risks.

"As hypothesized," the researchers report, a higher body weight and a greater number of "poor mental health days" differentiated adult video gamers from non-gamers.

Men who said they played video games weighed more and used the Internet more than men who did not play video games, the survey showed.

Women who reported playing video games reported greater levels of depression and poorer overall health than non-gamers.

Adult video gamers also seemed less outgoing, or extroverted, and less social

and assertive than non-gamers, consistent with prior research in adolescent video game enthusiasts that tied video game playing to sedentary habits, weight issues and mental health concerns.

Adult video gamers of both sexes relied more on the Internet for social support than non-gamers, which supports prior research suggesting that adult video game players may "sacrifice real-world social activities to play video games."

Weaver and colleagues suggest that video gaming for adults may be a form of "digital self-medication." Women, in particular, may immerse themselves in brain-engaging digital environments as a means of self-distraction; "in short, they literally 'take their minds off' their worries while playing a video game," the investigators note.

What drives men to the video game console is likely to be different.

In a commentary published with the survey results, Dr. Brian A. Primack of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine applauds Weaver and his team for "reminding us that video games are currently popular not only among young people but also among adults."

The greatest challenge, Primack contends, will be maintaining balance. He asks: "How do we simultaneously help the public steer away from imitation playlike activities, harness the potentially positive aspects of video games and keep in perspective the overall place of video games in our society?"

Powerful gaming industry giants, warns Primack, "will successfully tout the potential health-related benefits of products they develop. But who will be left to remind us that -- for children and adults alike -- Hide-And-Seek and Freeze Tag are still probably what we need most?" □

Consumers devouring nutrient-spiked foods, drinks

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE, AP Medical Writer

MILWAUKEE – From heart-friendly margarines to sugary cereals that strengthen bones, once-demonized foods are being spiked with nutrients to give them a healthier glow — and consumers are biting, even on some that are little more than dressed-up junk food.

A report released Thursday finds that even in a weak economy, people will pay a premium for products seen as preventing a health problem or providing a good alternative to sodas and empty-calorie snacks. The report is from research firm Pricewaterhouse Coopers.

These products include

winners and sinners: juices that supply kids with needed calcium, but also candy disguised as granola bars with just a smidgeon of much-ballyhooed nutrients.

The industry calls these products "nutraceuticals" or "functional foods." Critics say they could lead people to consume too much of certain nutrients, plus too many calories and fats.

New York University food scientist Marion Nestle calls them "calorie distractors." "Functional foods are about marketing, not health," she said.

"They delude people into thinking that these things are healthy," and they often eat more than is wise, she said.

Her shame list includes a candy

bar pumped with caffeine and B vitamins, marketed as an "energy boost," and fattening ice creams enriched with calcium and helpful bacteria called probiotics.

Other nutrition experts worry about too much of a good thing. The studies are far from definitive, but some suggest that too much of vitamins A, C, E and folic acid can be risky for some people.

Folic acid, for example, is "uncharted territory" because so many foods now are fortified with it, said Tufts University nutrition expert Alice Lichtenstein.

"We don't actually know how high you can go" and be safe, she said.

Americans have a big appetite for these products.



Cheerios, Tropicana Orange Juice, and vitaminwater are arranged for a studio photograph, Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2009 in New York. Food and beverage makers increasingly are spiking their products with vitamins and other nutrients, and are finding a healthy appetite in consumers.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

Functional foods account for more than \$27 billion in sales a year — about 5 percent of the U.S. food market, the Pricewaterhouse report says. Estimates of future growth range from 8.5 to 20 percent per year, far more than the 1 to 4 percent forecast for the food industry as a whole.

Fiber, for digestive health, has been a big draw. In 2007, General Mills expanded its Fiber One brand into bars with appealing flavors such as Oat & Caramel and Chocolate Mocha. Sales exceeded \$100 million in the first year. □

Stocks advance on more signs of economic pickup



By SARA LEPRO,
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — More signs that the economy is creeping toward recovery encouraged investors to move further into stocks — but at a cautious pace. Stocks rose moderately Thursday in very light volume. There were no dramatic economic reports, but a smattering of positive

data convinced investors to take more chances on stocks. Financials were particularly in demand after a report quoting American International Group Inc.'s CEO as saying the company will repay its bailout loans from the government. News from the Philadelphia Federal Reserve of a pickup in mid-Atlantic manufacturing also lifted

the market, having offset a weaker-than-expected Labor Department report on first-time claims for unemployment.

"I think the headline news just gave more comfort to those who have been and remain of the view that the recession is not only ending but that we are on the cusp of a V-shaped recovery," said David Rosenberg, chief economist and strategist at Gluskin Sheff & Associates.

Stock prices drifted higher through the afternoon. The market seemed to be shaking off some of the fears that had triggered selling in what has been a back-and-forth week, including sharp losses in Chinese shares and concerns about consumer

spending. The Dow Jones industrials rose 70.89, or 0.8 percent, to 9,350.05. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 10.91, or 1.1 percent, to 1,007.37, while the Nasdaq composite index gained 19.98, or 1.0 percent, to 1,989.22.

But there were still signs of caution. The low volume, typical for an August day, meant investors weren't piling into the market. It also meant that price movements could be exaggerated.

Consolidated volume on the New York Stock Exchange came to 5 billion shares, up from 4.35 billion on Wednesday. Rising stocks outpaced falling stocks by about 3 to 1 on the NYSE. Treasury prices closed mixed, having regained some ground from earlier losses, another sign that investors are being careful. Government debt is considered one of the safest places to stash money. The yield on the benchmark 10-year note fell to 3.43 percent from 3.46 percent late Wednesday.

In other trading, the Russell 2000 index of smaller companies rose 7.03, or 1.3 percent, to 568.68.

The dollar was mixed against other major currencies, while gold prices fell. Crude oil fell 92 cents to finish at \$72.91 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Investors were encouraged by the Philadelphia Fed's news that factory activity in the mid-Atlantic region jumped back into positive territory in August, reaching its highest level since November 2007, before the recession began. The report echoed findings earlier this week in a similar survey for the New York region.

Meanwhile, the Conference Board's economic forecasting gauge, the Index of Leading Economic Indicators, rose for the fourth straight month during July, suggesting that the recession will end this summer, if it hasn't already.

The two reports helped counter news from the Labor Department that new claims for unemployment benefits rose unexpectedly to 576,000 last week. Economists had predicted a decline.

Financial stocks, and in turn the rest of the market, got a boost after Bloomberg News quoted AIG's new CEO, Robert Benmosche, as saying the company would repay its bailout loans. The company, which the government saved from collapse nearly a year ago, got a rescue package worth up to \$182.5 billion. AIG shot up 21.3 percent, rising \$5.66 to \$32.30. Citigroup Inc., another recipient of a large bailout package, rose 35 cents, or 8.5 percent, to \$4.48.

The market has been preoccupied with consumer spending during the last week, and signs that consumers won't become more free with their money contributed to the market's down days. But investors took in stride news of Sears Holdings Corp.'s bigger than expected second-quarter loss. Although Sears fell nearly 12 percent, falling \$8.76 to \$65, its pullback didn't spread to the rest of the market.

Trading this week has reflected investors' uncertainty about what the economy's recovery will look like as they've absorbed both positive and negative data.

With earnings season winding down, analysts say there are few catalysts that could spark a big move in stocks in either direction. At the same time, volume is expected to remain light as traders take summer vacations. Without a clear signal and with fewer participants, trading will likely vary day to day for some time depending on the latest economic news.

Overseas, Chinese stocks recovered from a big sell-off with their biggest rally since March and all the major European indexes rose about 1.5 percent. □



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Bernanke's tough task: Withdrawing emergency aid

By JEANNINE AVERSA,
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — When the financial system was teetering, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke flooded it with trillions of dollars to save the banks and free up credit for consumers and businesses.

Looming in the future is a high-risk challenge for the economy's rescuer-in-chief: He will have to mop up that money without disrupting a nascent recovery.

And timing is vital. Act too fast, and Bernanke risks choking off lending to businesses and everyday Americans. Wait too long, and he risks setting off crippling inflation.

"We are in such an unusual situation," said Lyle Gramley, a Fed member in the early 1980s and now chief economic strategist at Soleil Securities Corp. "The Fed will have a more difficult set of decisions to make."

Assuming he manages to help usher in a sustained recovery, Bernanke, like his predecessors, will eventually face still another challenge: He will be under enormous political pressure to keep interest rates low, even though that could speed inflation.

But the Fed chief will face no task with quite the peril of withdrawing the trillions the Fed has pumped into the financial system in ways that had never been envisioned.

That money helped prop up shaky banks. It also was intended to unlock lending to people and companies, a key component of any recovery but one that so far has had only spotty success.

When, precisely, to pull back the money is an issue sure to surface as Bernanke, his counterparts in other countries, academics and economists meet over the next couple of days at an annual Fed conference in Jackson Hole, Wyo.

Some analysts think it could take four or five years for the Fed to withdraw the money entirely and shrink a balance sheet that is now about \$2 trillion, more than double what it was when the financial crisis struck.

Already, the Fed has taken

baby steps.

It has said it will allow one program intended to support money market mutual funds — one that hasn't even been used — to expire Oct. 30. It's also reduced the maximum it will lend to banks under two other programs.

And earlier this month, the central bank signaled it won't extend past October a \$300 billion government debt-buying program. That program is intended to lower consumer and corporate loan rates.

But this week the Fed extended a separate program designed to increase lending and help the commercial real estate market. So far, about \$40 billion in loans has been extended to investors — a small fraction of the \$200 billion made available in the program's first phase. And Americans still have trouble getting loans.

The biggest decisions lie ahead.

One will be deciding when and how to unload \$1.25 trillion in Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac mortgage-backed securities without sending mortgage rates surging. Another delicate matter is when the Fed should start selling some of its \$300 billion in Treasury debt.

In fighting the recession and financial crisis, Bernanke unleashed some of the most aggressive actions in the history of the central bank, which was created in 1913 after a series of bank panics. He slashed interest rates to record lows near zero. He provided low-cost loans for banks and bought debt so companies would have short-term "commercial paper" loans available to pay for salaries and supplies.

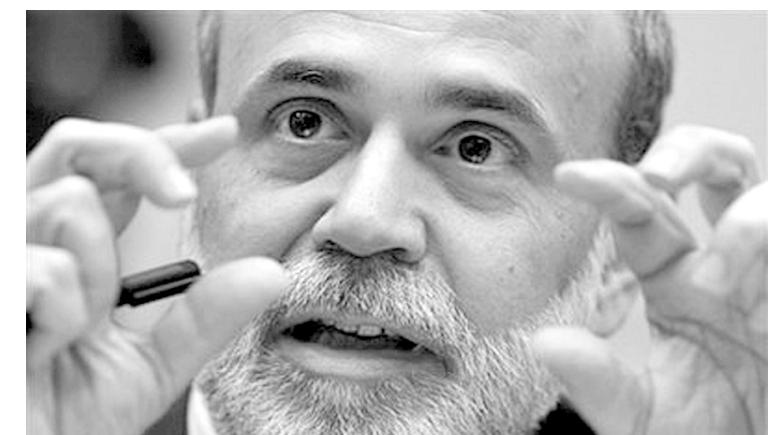
The Fed also bought mortgage-backed securities and government bonds to drive down interest rates on mortgages and other consumer debt. Bernanke also moved to support the mutual fund industry.

Congress, the White House and statehouses across America will probably exert intense pressure on the Fed to keep the money flowing and the emergency aid programs operating.

"There's no question the Fed has the capacity to reel in the stimulus. It is the politics that trouble me," says Allan Meltzer, a professor at Carnegie-Mellon University and author of a history of the central bank.

Keeping the easy money in place too long could feed high inflation by encouraging overborrowing and overspending. Surging inflation could then derail a recovery if it caused the Fed to aggressively boost interest rates. But pulling the plug too soon on the Fed's emergency aid could set back a recovery even faster. If, for instance, the Fed dumped its mortgage securities and interest rates shot up, homeowners and the housing industry would take a further pounding.

Whenever it does sell those



FILE - In this July 21, 2009 file photo, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke delivers a report before the House Financial Services Committee, on Capitol Hill in Washington. In fighting the economic and financial crisis, Fed Chairman Bernanke unleashed some of the most aggressive actions in the history of the central bank, which was created in 1913 after a series of bank panics.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite, file)

holdings, the Fed will have to pace the sales so they don't jolt the market but rather cause a smooth, gradual rise in mortgage rates.

To prevent inflation from surging, many economists

also think the Fed will have to start raising its key bank lending rate next summer. Unemployment, now 9.4 percent, will probably still be high, perhaps in the double digits. □

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Westraat # 22
Oranjestad, Aruba
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Joe Scarborough Is Shocked, Yet Awed by Single-Payer Logic

The Nation -- Something rather remarkable happened on Tuesday's Morning Joe. Rep. Anthony Weiner of New York pointed out that the health insurance industry has no clothes, and Joe Scarborough, after first trying to spin it some gossamer threads, broke down and said, By God, you're right, this emperor is a naked money-making machine!

Well, he didn't use those exact words, but Joe did seem to finally get that America has granted insurance companies the right to create bottlenecks in the financing of health care in order to extract profits out of the suffering of ordinary people--without providing any actual health care whatsoever.

"Why are we paying profits for insurance companies?" Weiner asked Scarborough. "Why are we paying overhead for insurance companies? Why," he asked, bringing it all home, "are we paying for their TV commercials?"

Weiner, who recently warned that President Obama could lose as many as 100 votes on a health bill if a public option is not included, really wants single payer--Medicare for all Americans is his goal. What a crazy, way-out, reckless notion, Joe went into their encounter believing. But Weiner asked some simple, direct questions that no politician, much less Obama or HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, has managed to pose:

What is an insurance company? They don't do a single check-up. They don't do a single exam, they don't perform an operation. Medicare has a 4 percent overhead rate. The real question is why do we have a private plan?

"It sounds like you're saying you think there is no need for us to have private insurance in health care," Joe asked at one point.

Weiner replied: "I've asked you three times. What is their value? What are they bringing to the deal?"

Scraping the bottom of a seemingly bottomless pit of spin, Joe is repeatedly left speechless, "stunned" and "astounded," he said, by the questions themselves. Indeed, when confronted with unfettered capitalism's massive failures, the right usually has nothing to say. The "free market" is supposed to eternally grow, not crash under its own greed. They're left ideologically crippled.

But unlike, say, Lou Dobbs, who began dobbering when confronted with similarly direct argument for single-payer, Joe was able to take a deep breath and return from a break with his eyes opened.

He even repeated Weiner's points clearly: The government would take over only the "paying mechanism" of health care, not the doctors or their medical decisions themselves. □

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"We want a second opinion."

Obama's Enforcer: Not Really Tough Enough

Joe Conason

Creators Syndicate -- If the Democrats fail to pass real changes in the health care system this year — rather than a sham that mimics and mocks reform — they will have nobody to blame but themselves. Or at least nobody to blame but other Democrats, notably those in the White House who have never been committed to this most venerable and fundamental aspect of party policy.

Of course, the right-wing rumormongers have done their share of damage, spreading lies about "death panels" and stirring up the boob cohort with warnings about socialism. Republican elected officials have decided to damage the president rather than address an issue they know is critical to the nation's future. Health insurance lobbyists and corporate leaders have spent millions of dollars to kill reform, buying legislative obedience the same way they buy advertising time or legal advice.

Yet in the months that followed the momentous election of November 2008, the Democrats have possessed the power to fulfill the moral imperative — good, affordable health care for all Americans — that they have pursued since the Harry Truman era. Both the new president and the new majorities in both houses of Congress declared their determination to create the kind of health care system that other developed nations have enjoyed for the past 50 years or so.

Now competing measures that might or might not accomplish that worthy goal are stalemated in Congress while the White House dithers over how best to placate Republicans and conservative Democrats who have opposed serious reform from the beginning.

The ultimate responsibility for this sorry state of affairs belongs with the president, who vacillates between speaking out boldly for a "public option," and permitting his aides and appointees to undermine his message by confiding their plans to sell out.

His worst tendency, to exalt bipartisan compromise above progressive policy, has left him at the mercy of senatorial frauds like Charles Grassley, the Iowa Republican who pretended to negotiate over details while denouncing the president for seeking to terminate America's grandmothers. He assigned far too much responsibility for

health care reform to aides who exacerbate that weakness — and in particular to Rahm Emanuel, the current chief of staff and former congressman from Chicago.

Every mistake made by the Obama White House in the pursuit of health care reform can be traced to the political style and ideological prejudices of Emanuel, who has sought to intimidate progressives and empower conservatives, always in the name of winning elections and "getting things done."

A self-styled tough guy who famously likes to prove his point with abusive language and threats, he led the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee during the years when the party regained its majority — when he spent millions to elect the "Blue Dogs," who have done so much to thwart the president's agenda on health, energy and economic recovery.

He repeatedly intervened in primary elections around the country to promote GOP-lite candidates against challengers who actually represented the party's bedrock beliefs. Around that same time, he co-authored a lightweight volume on national policy, titled "The Plan," that explained why he believed that universal health coverage could not be passed, so Democrats should settle for covering the nation's children, which had largely been achieved by then.

All this dubious history was no secret when Obama appointed the combative Chicagoan to run his shop. Although few Democrats trusted Emanuel to hold true to principle, many hoped that he would get things done — and that those things would reflect the progressive outlook of his boss rather than the attitude of accommodation he picked up on Capitol Hill. Instead and perhaps inevitably, his narrow pragmatism is shaping the Obama administration's approach to reform. As long as some kind of bill passes, Emanuel won't worry when the corporate powers override the public interest once again. He will congratulate himself on a job well done. His Blue Dogs will boast of frustrating that liberal Obama. Everyone will get a nice check from the insurance lobbyists.

But the president's promise will be soiled, and the nation's future will be dimmed. □

Jackson 'This Is It' film gets 2-week limited run

LOS ANGELES — A Michael Jackson film built around rehearsal footage left behind after his death will be released in a limited two-week theatrical engagement worldwide.

Distributor Sony announced that the release date for "Michael Jackson: This Is It" has been moved up to Oct. 28, two days earlier than previously announced. Tickets go on sale Sept. 27. The studio also announced longtime

Jackson collaborator Kenny Ortega is directing "This Is It," which offers a behind-the-scenes glimpse of Jackson preparing for a series of London shows he was rehearsing when he died June 25.

Ortega had been working with Jackson on the "This Is It" concert tour. His other credits include the "High School Musical" movies and an upcoming remake of "Footloose." □

Mickey Rourke: Sport helped me pick myself up

By AIDA CERKEZ-ROBINSON,

Associated Press Writer

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Mickey Rourke blames himself for being out of spotlight for over a decade but says his early interest in sports gave him a spirit that allowed him to pick himself up.

The 57-year-old actor confessed to an audience at the Sarajevo Film Festival on Thursday that he was out of work for almost 14 years because he did "not behave properly, like a professional, I wasn't real responsible." He said he blames himself for ruining the first part of his career.

The star was gone from Hollywood after squandering his early potential with bad-boy behavior and by turning down roles.

"I paid the price for it," he said.

Those years were hard, he said. "It's better to never work than to have worked and become a has been. I have been a has been for 12, 13 years. You feel terrible about yourself, you are not in control any more." His comeback came with "Sin City" and was followed by Darren Aronofsky's "Wrestler."

Aronofsky fought to cast Rourke against the concerns of financial backers and forged a comprise by settling on a lower budget of \$6 million. The role brought Rourke an Oscar nomination.

Rourke said he had not expected to get another chance, but then got two.

"I feel very blessed, very thankful, very fortunate," he said.

As a teenager, Rourke took up self-defense training, switched to boxing and decided on an amateur career before turning to acting.

Jackson collaborator Kenny Ortega is directing "This Is It," which offers a behind-the-scenes glimpse of Jackson preparing for a series of London shows he was rehearsing when he died June 25.

Ortega had been working with Jackson on the "This Is It" concert tour. His other credits include the "High School Musical" movies and an upcoming remake of "Footloose." □



US actor Mickey Rourke, seen at the Sarajevo Film Festival, at the event 'Coffee with...', in Sarajevo, Bosnia, Thursday, Aug. 20, 2009. The Balkan region's most important film event now draws more than 100,000 people each year, a long way from its humble beginnings in a city roamed by snipers and blasted by mortar shells. This year's festival includes 232 films from 53 countries to be screened over nine days.

(AP Photo/Hidajet Delic)

"I think sports gave me a mindset to keep moving, that I'm not dead," he said. "You learn to pick yourself up and keep going ... For me the game was not over," he added.

The "Wrestler" is his favorite movie, he said, but also was the hardest one he ever made. "Thirty years ago these guys were a bunch of fat guys in Speedos who looked like a bunch of Germans on vacation in Miami Beach. Now they know about nutrition and they stay at the gym," he said.

So the role of a wrestler required tough training and

six meals a day to gain the required extra 32 pounds, he said.

"I'm not 20 years old any more and when they throw your ass down, something is gonna hurt," he said. "My back would go out, my knee would go out. I had three MRIs in the first two months. If they would say they want to make Part 2, I would say, 'No, thank you.'"

He said his next project, "Iron Man 2," in which he plays an evil assassin, will "be better than Iron Man 1, that I can guarantee you." □



In this handout photo provided by AEG, pop star Michael Jackson rehearses at the Staples Center in Los Angeles on Tuesday, June 23, 2009.

(AP Photo/Kevin Mazur, AEG/Getty Images)



FILE - In this Sept. 15, 1972 file photo, The Jackson 5, from left, Tito, Marlon, Michael, Jackie and Jermaine perform during the 'Sonny and Cher Comedy Hour' in Los Angeles.

(AP Photo, file)

A&E to announce airdate soon for Jacksons special

NEW YORK — The A&E network says an airdate for its documentary special about members of the Jackson family will be announced soon.

A&E spokesman Dan Silberman says the program focuses on brothers Jackie, Tito, Jermaine and Marlon Jackson. Silberman says Michael Jackson didn't participate in the show.

The 50-year-old King of Pop died June 25, weeks before he was due to start a string of comeback shows in London. A tribute concert is scheduled Sept. 26 in the Austrian capital of Vienna.

While the special could potentially be expanded into a series, the network says it currently has no plans beyond airing a stand-alone show. □

Tribal effort to fix broken world hinges on condor

By JEFF BARNARD,
Associated Press Writer

ORICK, Calif. — The tribes of the lower Klamath River have since ancient times decorated themselves with condor feathers when they performed the dances designed to heal a world gone wrong.

"It can soar the highest, so we figured that was the one to get our prayers to heaven when we were asking for the world to be in balance," said Richard Myers, a member of the Yurok Tribal Council and a leader in the revival of the tribe's world renewal ceremonies.

Now the Yurok Tribe is using modern science in hopes of restoring condors, which have not soared above the northern coast of California since 1914.

If they establish that condors can survive here, and get federal permission to introduce birds from a captive breeding program, it would be the first restoration of condors in the northern half of its historic range, and a stepping stone to condors soaring over Oregon and Washington. Lewis and Clark collected some as they trekked down the Columbia River.

With a \$200,000 grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the tribe is trapping turkey vultures to test for lead poisoning from eating the rotting remains of deer and elk contaminated by lead bullets, and cutting plugs of blubber from dead sea lions to measure the legacy of DDT pesticides. Those tests will help determine potential toxic threats to condors.

Researchers from Oregon State University and the Oregon Zoo are computer mapping areas throughout the Northwest where condors can nest in big trees and rocky cliffs, and soar over steep hillsides with the kind of sustained winds that draw hang gliders.

"He was like the boss of all the birds," said the tribal council's Myers. "At one point in time in our world we know where the beginning of the world was.

We call it Kenick. The birds and animals would all speak the same language. He was the first one. He was also the first one to go extinct for whatever reasons."

The details of why condors went extinct in the Northwest are not clear. Tribal wildlife

biologist Chris West figures that a big factor was commercial whaling and sealing, which deprived the birds of a major source of food washing up on the beach. Tests of feathers indicate marine sources comprised up to half the diet of some birds.

That's why he drove two hours South to Ferndale, then hiked nearly an hour back up the beach to find a dead sea lion reported by another biologist. The Yurok need to establish how safe it will be for condors to feed on whales and sea lions, because their blubber is the repository of DDT pesticides and related chemicals dumped in the ocean decades ago. Like eagles, condors in the 1960s and 1970s became unable to hatch their eggs because DDT made the shells too thin, West said.

When West found the sea lion, it was seething with maggots, too far gone for drawing samples of blood and blubber. The state of the carcass illustrates the role condors played in the ecology of the North Coast, West said. They are the only scavengers strong enough to rip open such tough hide, allowing gulls and turkey



In this photo taken on Friday, Aug. 7, 2009, Yurok Tribe wildlife biotechnician Tiana Williams holds a turkey vulture in the hills above Orick, Calif., where it was trapped as part of the tribe's efforts to determine if the Klamath River canyon would be suitable habitat for condors. Lead poisoning is the leading cause of death in condors in the wild, and the tribe is taking blood samples to see if the turkey vultures are feeding on carcasses shot by lead bullets. The tribe's culture is based on the idea of regularly trying to fix what is wrong with the world, and bringing back the condor is part of that belief.

(AP Photo/Jeff Barnard)

vultures to join the feast.

In another attempt to measure lead levels, Tiana Williams sat hidden and quiet in the hills above Orick, watching the stinking remains of roadkilled deer and raccoons that would draw turkey vultures into a trap.

After graduating from Harvard in biochemistry, she came home to work for her tribe.

"They are considered a sacred animal," Williams said of condors. "You are never ever supposed to molest them. You are never supposed to kill them. We use their feathers for ceremonies. If you get a feather, it has to be given by the bird. You have to find it on the ground."

"Condors being the first animal we bring back to Yurok ancestral territory is a really powerful thing to me, as the first step toward renewal of our land."

After a bird struggled through a one-way wire entry into the trap, she threw a flannel sheet over it and held it gently in her lap. Biologist West inserted a needle in a leg vein, drawing blood to test for lead.

Lead poisoning is the leading cause of death for condors in the wild, said Chris Parish, condor program director for the Peregrine Fund, which breeds birds in Boise, Idaho, and releases them at the Grand Canyon.

To reduce the danger, the

Peregrine Fund has worked with hunters to switch to non-lead bullets, and bring in the gut piles of animals they shoot so they won't be eaten by condors.

Aside from lead poisoning, there is little to stop condors from spreading clear up to British Columbia, Parish said.

"The habitat is suitable for them, the carrion is suitable for them," he said. "It's a matter of where we can gain the assistance of the hunting community."

At last count there were 180 condors in the wild in North America, up from 23 in the 1980s, said Fish and Wildlife spokesman Michael Woodbridge. Zoos and captive breeding programs have 176.

Wild birds soar over Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona, Zion National Park in Utah, the hills outside Ventura, Calif., the Big Sur area of California, and Baja California in Mexico.

The only condors on the North Coast have been stuffed for a century. One is at the Clarke Historical Museum in Eureka. The other is at Eureka High School.

The Clarke Museum also has three condor dance feathers decorated with white deerskin and red woodpecker feathers from the Karuk Tribe, neighbors of the Yurok, who share many of their ceremonies. □



Imitating others has long been seen as a useful way to explore the world -- monkey see, monkey do -- but imitation could also make monkeys popular, according to a new study. Experts examining the habits of capuchins have discovered the monkeys build closer bonds with human playmates who mimic their behavior than with those who do not.

(AFP/File/Pornchai Kittiwongsakul)

researchers at the NIH, the Italian National Research Council and the University of Parma. □

Monkeys, like people, prefer mimics: study

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Imitating others has long been seen as a useful way to explore the world -- monkey see, monkey do -- but imitation could also make monkeys popular, a study has found. Experts examining the habits of capuchins have discovered the monkeys build closer bonds with human playmates who mimic their behavior than with those who do not.

In the study some monkeys were exposed to researchers who imitated their behavior with a small ball; others were paired with researchers whose actions did not.

"After the imitation sequence, the monkeys consistently spent more time near the investigator who imitated them than with the investigator who did not," the researchers said.

And the same may be true

for humans, according to the group's findings, published in the August 14 edition of the journal *Science*.

"Human beings prefer the behavior of other people who subtly imitate their behavior and other affects," said Duane Alexander, a senior expert at the US National Institutes of Health (NIH), where part of the study was carried out.

While humans often assume the body postures, mannerisms or gestures of people they meet although neither party tends to be aware of the imitation, it nonetheless promotes social links, the researchers found.

It is hoped the findings "may lead to insights into disorders in which imitation and bonding is impaired such as certain forms of autism," explained Alexander.

The study was carried out by

Cash for Clunkers to end on Monday

By KEN THOMAS and STEPHEN MANNING

Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration will end the popular \$3 billion Cash for Clunkers program on Monday, giving car shoppers a few more days to take advantage of big government incentives. The Transportation Department said Thursday that the government will wind down the program on Monday at 8 p.m. EDT. Car buyers can receive rebates of \$3,500 or \$4,500 for trading in older vehicles for new, more fuel-efficient models.

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said the

program has been “a lifeline to the automobile industry, jump starting a major sector of the economy and putting people back to work.” He said the department was “working toward an orderly wind down of this very popular program.”

The White House has touted the program’s success in providing a targeted boost to the sluggish economy since its inception in late July. Through Thursday, auto dealers have made deals worth \$1.9 billion and the incentives have generated more than 457,000 vehicle sales.

Continued on Next Page



President Barack Obama listens to a question during the Organizing for America National Health Care Forum at the Democratic National Committee headquarters in Washington Thursday, Aug. 20, 2009.

Associated Press

On defense, Obama woos right, left on health care

By PHILIP ELLIOTT

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — With control of the health care debate slipping from his grasp, President Barack Obama pitched his ambitious plan to both conservative talk radio and his own liberal supporters Thursday — and denied a challenge from one backer that he was “bucklin’ a little bit” under Republican criticism.

Liberals were on the verge of revolt as Obama refused to say any final deal must include a

government-run insurance option, while Republicans pressed their all-but-unified opposition to the White House effort. Obama, who will leave Washington Friday on vacation, said reason would prevail and it was no time to panic.

“I guarantee you ... we are going to get health care reform done. And I know that there are a lot of people out there who have been hand-wringing, and folks in the press are following every little twist and turn of the

legislative process,” Obama told a caller to Philadelphia-based radio talk show host Michael Smerconish during a broadcast from the White House Diplomatic Room.

“You know, passing a big bill like this is always messy.”

Obama is struggling to regain the momentum on a comprehensive bill that would extend health coverage to nearly 50 million Americans who lack it and restrain skyrocketing costs.

Continued on Page B4



Lockerbie bomber Abdel Baset al-Megrahi, centre, leaves a police van at Glasgow International Airport, Glasgow Scotland bound for Tripoli, after he was released on compassionate grounds by Scottish Justice Secretary Kenny MacAskill Thursday Aug. 20, 2009.

Associated Press

Lockerbie bomber freed, returns to cheers in Libya

TAREK EL-TABLAWY

Associated Press Writer

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — The only man convicted of the Lockerbie bombing returned home Thursday to a cheering crowd after his release from a Scottish prison — an outrage to many relatives of the 270 people who perished when Pan Am Flight 103 exploded.

President Barack Obama said the Scottish decision to free terminally ill Abdel Baset al-Megrahi on compassionate grounds was a mistake and said he should be under house arrest. Obama warned Libya not to give him a hero’s welcome.

Despite the warning, thousands of young men were on hand at a Tripoli airport where al-Megrahi’s plane touched down. Some threw flower petals as he stepped from the plane. He wore a dark suit and a burgundy tie and appeared visibly tired.

He was accompanied by Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi’s son, Saif al-Islam Gadhafi, who was dressed in a traditional white robe and golden embroidered vest. The son pledged last year to bring al-Megrahi home and raised his hand victoriously to the crowd as he exited the plane. They then sped off in a convoy of white sedans.

International photographers and camera crews — along with most Libyan broadcast media — were barred from filming the arrival at the airport, which decades ago had been part of a U.S. air base.

Continued on Page B8



In this Aug. 6, 2009 photo, a crane lifts a flattened car from a stack of similar vehicles to a shredder at Gershow Recycling Corp. in Medford, N.Y. It's revived sales, scrapped filthy cars, added shifts in struggling factory towns, and still, the federal government's Cash for Clunkers program is widely criticized as a wreck even as it begins to wind down. The slow pace at which the government is reimbursing dealers, which is prompting many to quit the program, is just the latest example of poor planning and mismanagement.

Associated Press

CASH FOR CLUNKERS

Continued from Page B1

But the administration needed to put a halt to the program to avoid surpassing the \$3 billion funding level. Consumers were on pace to exhaust the program's coffers in early September and dealers have complained about long delays in getting reimbursed for the car incentives. John McEleney, chairman of the National Automobile Dealers Association, said he remained concerned that so few dealers had been reimbursed for Clunker deals. But he said the Monday deadline should give dealers time to get their paperwork in order.

"I think if we can get a clean cutoff Monday and get everything processed by then, it will have been a pretty darned successful program," he said.

But Mike Mahalak, who runs a Dodge, Chrysler and Jeep dealership in Winter Haven, Fla., said the Monday end date could lead to a similar rush that nearly crippled the federal government's computer systems that were set up to handle claims.

"That Web site will lock up again once everyone is cramming it again on Monday," Mahalak said. The administration has said it expanded the capacity of the computer network in an effort to improve the process for dealers.

The Transportation Department said they

have reviewed nearly 40 percent of the transactions and have already paid out \$145 million to dealers. Obama officials said there are no plans to seek additional funding.

Applications for rebates will not be accepted after the Monday deadline, administration officials said, and dealers should not make additional sales without receiving all the necessary paperwork from their customers. Dealers will be able to resubmit rejected applications after the deadline.

The Transportation Department cautioned dealers about making sales this weekend, advising them to make sales only when the buyer's paperwork is clearly in order and can be submitted immediately for repayment.

President Barack Obama said in an interview Thursday that the program has been "successful beyond anybody's imagination" but dealers were overwhelmed by the response of consumers. He pledged that dealers "will get their money." The administration has said it has tripled the number of staffers sorting through the dealer paperwork.

Dealers have complained of delays in getting reimbursed and backlogs of vehicle paperwork getting processed in the program. Dealers have said they face a risk of not being reimbursed but LaHood has pledged that dealers will be paid.

"We do not know how many deals are in the pipeline. We don't know how many dollars are left in the program at this very moment," said Ted Smith, president of the Florida Automobile Dealers Association. "That's fundamental to the health of the dealerships that are participating. If you run out of money before you run out of deals, that's not a good situation."

On Thursday, both Chrysler and General Motors said they would begin providing cash advances to dealers to help cover any cash shortfalls related to the program.

The automakers said they would provide the advances for up to 30 days to dealers

who have already completed a sale and that they will be available as long as the program remains in effect.

The National Automobile Dealers Association said its trade group met with Transportation officials to discuss concerns about reimbursement delays and ways of fixing the problems. NADA spokesman Charles Cyrill said the association "stressed the importance of addressing — as soon as possible — how the program will end, including the possible suspension of the program."

Dealers say the delays have led to a cash crunch. They typically borrow money to put new cars on their lots and must repay those loans within a few days of a sale.

Some dealers are no longer participating in the Clunker program. □



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AP source: CIA hired contractor to kill al-Qaida

By PAMELA HESS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The CIA hired private contractors from Blackwater USA in 2004 as part of a secret program to kill top-level members of al-Qaida, but a spokesman says it never resulted in the capture or killing of any terrorist suspects.

Former Rep. Porter Goss was CIA director at the time, and the contract ended during his time in office, according to a former senior intelligence official and another person familiar with the program. They spoke on condition of anonymity because the program remains classified.

The New York Times first reported Blackwater's involvement late Wednesday on its Web site.

The Times, citing unidentified current and former government officials, said Blackwater executives helped with planning, training and surveillance for the program. It was begun shortly after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks but never became fully operational.

CIA Director Leon Panetta terminated the program in June upon learning of it, then informed the congressional intelligence committees in an emergency briefing the next day. CIA spokesman George

Little said the program yielded no successes.

The officials told the Times that the CIA's use of an outside company for a potentially lethal program was a major reason Panetta called the emergency congressional briefing.

Blackwater, a North Carolina company now known as Xe Services, has come under heavy criticism for its alleged role in a September 2007 shooting in Baghdad's Nisoor Square that left 17 Iraqi civilians dead.

It was unclear whether the CIA had planned to use the contractors to capture or kill al-Qaida operatives or just to help with training and surveillance. Government officials said bringing outsiders into a program with lethal authority raised deep concerns about accountability in covert operations, the Times reported.

The Times reported that the CIA did not have a formal contract with Blackwater for this program but instead had individual agreements with top company officials, including founder Erik D. Prince.

The revelation of the program created a small political firestorm on Capitol Hill. The House Intelligence Committee in June launched an investigation to determine whether the CIA broke the law by not informing Congress about the secret program as



In this Oct. 2, 2007 file photo, Blackwater USA founder, Erik Prince, testifies before the House Oversight Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

soon as it was begun.

The program had several lives under four successive CIA directors: George Tenet canceled it during his tenure because it never produced results.

His successor, Goss, restarted it and inked the Blackwater contracts. Michael Hayden, Goss' successor, downgraded the program from a planned covert action to an intelligence gathering activity. Panetta drove the final stake into the program in June.

Former CIA Director Hayden, speaking Thursday at a panel discussion at the National Press Club, said he was initially puzzled by the urgency and excitement surrounding Panetta's briefing to Congress, knowing what he did already

about the program. He said he believes Panetta called the emergency meeting because of the political sensitivity of the program rather than concerns about its legality. Hayden would not discuss details of the still classified effort.

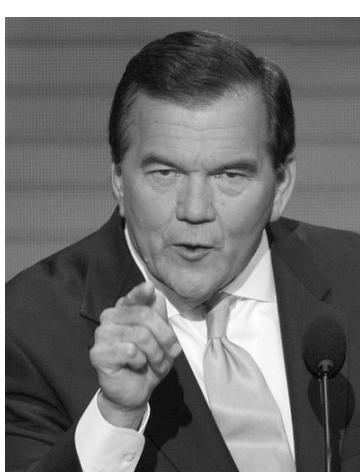
Jack Devine, a 32-year veteran of the CIA's clandestine operations office, said Thursday that the government should be extremely cautious about outsourcing lethal and sensitive CIA operations—in part because those are important capabilities the spy agency should be developing in-house, but also because it looks bad if the operation becomes public.

"If it won't pass the giggle test, you don't want to be involved in it," Devine said. □

Ex-US security head links politics, terror alerts

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge says he was pressured by other members of President George W. Bush's Cabinet to raise the nation's terror alert level just before the 2004 presidential election. In a new book, Ridge says he objected to raising the security level despite the urgings of former Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and then-Attorney General John Ashcroft. According to the book's publisher, Ridge says the episode persuaded him to follow through with his plans to leave the administration.

Just days before the election, terrorist leader Osama bin Laden rattled the campaign by releasing a videotape that appeared intended to show that al-Qaida remained active and effective. The president left the terror alert unchanged. □



In this Sept. 4, 2008 file photo, Tom Ridge, former secretary of Homeland Security and former Pennsylvania governor speaks to the Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minn.

Associated Press

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OBAMA WOOS

Continued from Page B1

Opponents of the overhaul have drowned out supporters at lawmakers' town halls around the country this month, and public backing for Obama's effort has slipped in opinion polls. Congressional Democratic leaders are preparing to go it alone on legislation, although bipartisan negotiations continue in the Senate.

On the defensive, Obama is embracing a new role of fact checker-in-chief, trying to correct untrue claims such as that the proposals would provide health care for illegal immigrants, create "death panels" or pay for abortions with taxpayer dollars. Aides say the situation has left Obama exasperated.

"Now, c'mon," a mocking Obama told a cheering crowd late Thursday at a Democratic

National Committee appearance designed to re-energize activists who were instrumental in his drive to the presidency. "What we're going to have to do is to cut through the noise and the misinformation."

"The best offense against lies is the truth," Obama said. "All we can do is just keep on pushing the truth."

Yet for all the gnashing from Republicans and fiscally conservative Democrats, he faces equally tough opposition from lawmakers and activists on the left who insist any overhaul must include a government-run insurance option.

In fact, shortly after his comments Thursday, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi declared the Democratic-controlled House simply won't approve the overhaul without it.

"There's no way I can

pass a bill in the House of Representatives without a public option," Pelosi, D-Calif., said after a round-table in San Francisco.

Obama told his DNC audience — as well as thousands watching online and listening by telephone — that health care was the toughest fight he has faced in office.

"Winning the election is just the start," he said. "Victory in an election wasn't the change that we sought."

That election, though, came with his promise of the government insurance option, a provision that Obama's team now calls "preferred" but not mandatory. During both his Thursday appearances, Obama declined to call it a deal breaker.

"What we've said is that there are a number of components to health care," he said during the talk radio broadcast, sitting in front of a fireplace on the ground floor of the executive mansion. "I see nothing wrong with having public option as one choice."

He said "the press got excited and some folks on the left got a little excited" when the he and top administration aides last weekend made statements indicating that a publicly run health insurance option was just one of several alternatives.

Since then, Obama has faced increasing criticism from his left flank.

"And even though some White House advisers seem to have forgotten, the reason the public option has become central to reform is simple: We're fed up with the insurance companies and we need real accountability for them," liberal MoveOn.org said in a message sent to its 5 million members while the president was speaking with Smerconish. "They've had decades to fix the problems with our health care system, but they haven't done it." One caller to Smerconish's program said he sensed the administration was making a misstep.

"I'm getting a little ticked off that it feels like the knees are bucklin' a little bit," said the caller who identified himself as Joe. "You have an overwhelming majority in both the House and the Senate, and you own the whole shooting match. ... It's very frustrating to watch you try and compromise with a lot of these people who aren't willing to compromise with you."

Obama told his audiences he is trying to reach across the aisle to craft a bipartisan plan, even as he blamed Republicans for delay. He peppered his DNC remarks with jokes and jabs at conservatives that had the partisan crowd breaking into applause and laughter.

In response, a spokesman for the No. 2 Republican in the House said he had a question

for Obama and his team.

"We would love to know when, exactly — time, date, place — the president or his staff reached out to Republican leaders?" said Brad Dayspring, a spokesman for Rep. Eric Cantor, R-Va.

Republican leaders in May sent Obama a letter outlining the GOP's principles and asking to collaborate.

"And the president's response?" Dayspring said. "Meeting? Nah. Work together? No thanks. Further discussion? Nope. Instead, they went with, 'Thanks for the letter.'"

While the White House insists Obama is still looking for Republican support for a comprehensive health care bill, Democrats privately are preparing a one-party push, which they feel is all but inevitable. Polls show slippage in support for the president's approach, although respondents express even less confidence in Republicans' handling of health care.

Former Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney said Thursday that Obama is struggling to get a health care bill because he has been too deferential to liberals. Romney, who may challenge Obama in 2012, said on CBS' "The Early Show" that "if the president wants to get something done, he needs to put aside the extreme liberal wing of his party." □



FILE - In this Jan. 9, 2007 file photo, Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., gestures as he answers a question following his speech at the National Press Club in Washington. A cancer-stricken Sen. Edward M. Kennedy has written a poignant letter to Massachusetts leaders asking that they change state law to allow a speedy replacement of him in Congress.

Associated Press

Ailing Kennedy asks for speedy replacement process

GLEN JOHNSON

AP Political Writer

BOSTON (AP) — A cancer-stricken Sen. Edward M. Kennedy has asked Massachusetts leaders to change state law to allow a speedy replacement if it becomes necessary for him to surrender his seat, fearing a months-long vacancy would deny Democrats a crucial vote on President Barack Obama's health care overhaul. In a note to Gov. Deval Patrick and other state leaders, Kennedy asked that lawmakers allow the governor to appoint an interim replacement pending election of a successor, to ensure there would not be a period with a vacancy. Currently, the law requires a special election to be held within five months. "It is vital for this commonwealth to have two voices speaking for the needs of its citizens and two votes in the Senate during the approximately five months between a vacancy and an election," he wrote. Health care has been Kennedy's signature

issue. Although Democrats hold a sizable majority in the Senate, the fate of a sweeping health care bill could hinge on a single vote and some moderate Democrats have been wavering. Another Democrat, Sen. Robert Byrd of West Virginia, has been seriously ill and often absent.

Kennedy's letter acknowledges the state changed its succession law in 2004 to require a special election be held 145 to 160 days after the vacancy. At the time, legislative Democrats — with a wide majority in both chambers — were concerned because then-Republican Gov. Mitt Romney had the power to directly fill any vacancy created as Democratic Sen. John Kerry ran for president.

The letter was sent Tuesday, but Kennedy aides insist there is no material change in his condition since he was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor in May 2008. Kennedy was initially treated with surgery, followed by chemotherapy and radiation treatment. "For almost 47 years,

I have had the privilege of representing the people of Massachusetts in the United States Senate," Kennedy wrote in his letter. He added that serving in the Senate "has been — and still is — the greatest honor of my public life."

The 77-year-old Kennedy has been convalescing at his homes in Washington and in Hyannis Port, Massachusetts, as well as a rental property in Florida, but his absence from last week's funeral on Cape Cod for his sister, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, prompted a flurry of questions about his own health. An aide said the letter was one of several written by Kennedy in early July. Another was to Pope Benedict XVI and was hand-delivered by President Obama during a visit to the Vatican. In his succession letter, Kennedy suggests the governor ensure the fairness of any appointment to replace him by seeking an "explicit personal commitment" his appointee will not seek the position on a permanent basis. □

Milwaukee rallies around its new hero — the mayor

By CARRIE ANTLFINGER

Associate Press Writer

MILWAUKEE — Milwaukee's mayor has bloody cuts on his face, smashed teeth and a fractured hand — but he's not exactly hurting politically. Ever since he confronted a metal-bar wielding man near the state fair, Tom Barrett has become a sort of urban folk hero, with T-shirts comparing him to Superman or saying "Our Mayor Ain't No Cream Puff."

President Barack Obama gave him a get-well call, and some are saying the status might help, at least temporarily, if he decides to run for governor.

"That story is a great story for any candidate, and they'd love to have that," said University of Wisconsin-Madison political science professor Charles Franklin.

Coincidentally, Gov. Jim Doyle also announced this week that he would not seek a third term in 2010. Barrett, a former Congressman, has been mentioned as a possible Democratic candidate to replace him.

The 55-year-old mayor has been downplaying his efforts to help a woman who was crying for help Saturday night. Police say a man beat Barrett after he tried to call 911.

"I can't think of a situation like this where people would not have responded the way I did," he said Wednesday.

"When someone says call 911, you call 911 — it's that straightforward."

But in Milwaukee — and elsewhere in the Dairy State — his efforts have not gone unnoticed.

A reporter for a local Milwaukee television station told the mayor that the station has received hundreds of get-well wishes from people who called the mayor a hero and Editors at the weekly Shepherd Express named "Citizen Tom Barrett" their hero of the week, saying he "embodies what it means to be a true citizen in a civil society."

T-shirts commemorating the mayor also are popping up for sale in Milwaukee, a city of 604,000 best known for its beer, brats and blue-collar historic pride.

One shirt, with a Superman "S" emblazoned on it, reads "Supermayor Tom Barrett." It also calls the mayor: "Selfless & Courageous ... For The People Of Milwaukee."

Screen printing and embroidery company Will Enterprises donated about a dozen to the mayor's office, saying in a letter it was grateful Milwaukee had a mayor like Barrett. Sales Manager Kevin Ullrich said so many people were requesting them that they have started selling nearly the same version, but with an "M," instead of an "S" emblem.

Brew City Brand Apparel also has black-and-yellow T-shirts that read, "Our Mayor Ain't No Cream Puff" for sale. Cream puffs are popular at the Wisconsin State Fair, which ended Sunday, and so far, the company has sold 150.

Police on Thursday charged Anthony J. Peters, 20, with two felonies — first-degree reckless injury with a weapon and theft — and two misdemeanors. The charges carry a maximum sentence of 36 years behind bars and a \$136,000 fine.

According to the complaint, Peters said he was arguing with his 1-year-old daughter's grandmother Saturday in the Milwaukee suburb of West Allis. Barrett, who has a preliminary hearing set for Aug. 27, had been at the fair with his family and had walked a few blocks away to his sister's car with her, his niece and two daughters. They then heard the woman shout for someone to call 911.

The complaint said Peters



This artist rendering provided by Brew City Brand Apparel on Tuesday Aug. 18, 2009 shows the design for a T-Shirt Brew City Brand Apparel started selling in honor of Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett who is recovering from a beating over the weekend. Tom Barrett's niece called 911 after a man beat him severely while he intervened in a domestic dispute, saying her uncle was bleeding a lot.

Associated Press

admitted having "freaked out" when Barrett tried to call 911. He snatched Barrett's phone, threatened to shoot him and the two exchanged punches before Peters beat him with a tire iron or crow bar, according to the complaint.

Peters' court-appointed attorney, Anthony Cotton, anticipated pleading not guilty initially until he could get a look at all the evidence. "We wish Mayor Barrett a speedy recovery," he said.

Barrett was elected as mayor in 2004, and won a second term in 2008 with 79 percent of the vote. A former state senator and state representative, he served five two-year terms in Congress and ran unsuccessfully for the Democratic nomination for governor in 2002.

If he ran for governor, Barrett would have stiff competition, including Republicans Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker and former U.S. Rep. Mark Neumann. They've already announced their

candidacy, as has Lt. Gov. Barbara Lawton, a Democrat. U.S. Rep. Ron Kind, another Democrat, said he might join the race.

Franklin said he thinks if Barrett does run, his campaign can use his intervening in the domestic dispute as a demonstration of his character. It also could help boost his visibility statewide for the next weeks or few months, Franklin said, but he didn't think it would matter in the long term.

Brad Sargent, 50, who lives 190 miles northwest of Milwaukee in Wausau, said he hadn't heard of Barrett before the beating. But he wanted more facts about the attack before drawing any conclusions.

"Name recognition would definitely benefit him, but would I vote for him because of it? No," Sargent said. "I definitely now would be more familiar with his name and what he stands for and where he comes from." □



Washington extends Mexico travel advisory

JULIE WATSON

Associated Press Writer

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The U.S. State Department is warning Americans to stay away from President Felipe Calderon's home state of Michoacan, where drug cartel members killed 18 federal agents last month.

The alert issued Thursday does not recommend against traveling to Mexico, but says recent violence has prompted the U.S. Embassy to urge Americans to delay unnecessary travel to Michoacan and the border state of Chihuahua, where two Americans were abducted and killed in July.

The department says Americans traveling in those areas should exercise extreme caution.

Michoacan is home to Monarch butterfly breeding grounds frequented by American tourists. The state erupted in violence last month when La Familia drug cartel launched a series of attacks that killed 18 federal agents and two soldiers across the state after the arrest of a top cartel operative.

Chihuahua is home to Mexico's deadliest city, Ciudad Juarez, with more than 1,300 murders this year. The alert says Americans should also avoid the Guadalupe Bravo area near Ciudad Juarez, and the northwest quarter of the state, including Nuevas Casas Grandes. It warns that killings, carjackings and other crime have increased in the past year in Ciudad Juarez, across from El Paso, Texas, and in other border cities where there have been shootouts in shopping centers and other public venues during daylight hours.

Criminals have followed and harassed U.S. citizens in their vehicles in the border cities of Nuevo Laredo, Matamoros and Tijuana, according to the State Department.

Meanwhile, gunmen killed the presiding lawmaker of the state legislature in Guerrero, a drug-plagued southwestern state where Acapulco is located.

The body of leftist congressman Armando Chavarria was found with three gunshot wounds early Thursday in the passenger seat of a vehicle in the

state capital of Chilpancingo, according to Guerrero state's public safety department.

Chavarria's Democratic Revolution Party, or PRD, called it a political crime and said at least 25 of its party militants have been killed so far this year. Police say they have not made arrests or determined a motive.

Guerrero has suffered a wave of violent crime linked to drug trafficking. State police said three human heads were found Thursday in ice boxes in the town of Coyuca de Catalán. The mutilated bodies were in bags nearby. A message from alleged drug traffickers also was found.

Drug violence has killed more than 11,000 people since Calderon launched his nationwide crackdown on organized crime, sending thousands of troops to drug hotspots.

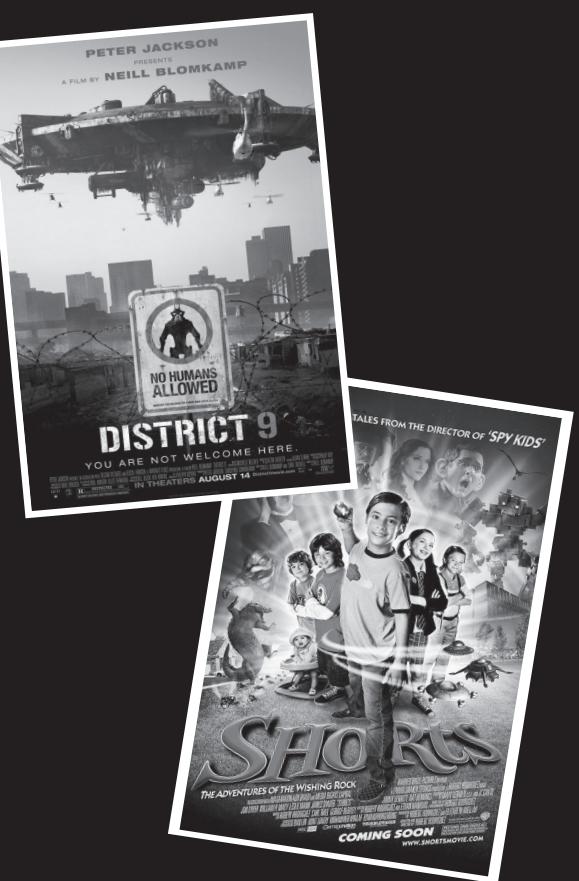
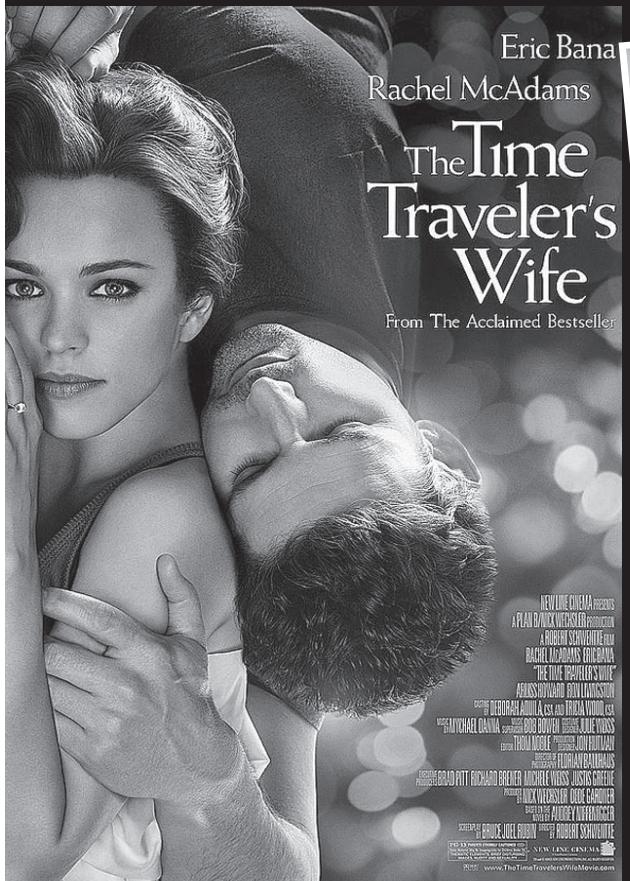
The government says most of the killings are the result of rival smugglers battling for lucrative routes into the United States. □

A policeman holds a weapon near a crime scene where an unidentified man was murdered in Tijuana, northern Mexico, Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2009. Drug related violence has claimed over 11,000 lives across Mexico since President Calderon took office in 2006.

Associated Press



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R	THE HANGOVER	matinee: 12:50	3:15			
		daily: 7:30	9:45			
PG	ALIENS IN THE ATTIC	matinee: 12:45	3:00	late show:		
PG-13	G.I.: JOE: THE RISE OF THE COBRA	daily: 5:45	8:30			
		matinee: 12:30	3:15	late show: 11:15		
R	THE ORPHAN	daily: 6:15	8:45			
		matinee: 12:45	3:30	late show: 11:30		
PG	SHORTS	daily: 4:15	6:15	8:15	late show: 10:15	
		matinee: 12:15	2:15			12:15
PG	ICE AGE 3 DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS	daily: 4:00	6:00			
		matinee: 12:00	2:00	late show:		
PG-13	TRANSFORMER 2	daily: 8:00			late show: 11:00	

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PG-13	DISTRICT 9	daily: 5:15	7:45	10:15	late show: 12:30
R	THE UGLY TRUTH	matinee: 12:30	3:00		
		daily: 4:45	7:00	9:15	late show: 11:30
PG-13	THE PROPOSAL	matinee: 12:15	2:30		
		9:30		late show: 12:15	
PG	HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE	daily: 5:45			late show:
		matinee: 2:15			
R	THE HANGOVER	daily: 7:30	9:45		
		matinee:		late show: 11:15	
PG-13	JULIE AND JULIA	daily: 4:45			late show:
		matinee: 2:00			
R	FUNNY PEOPLE	daily: 9:00			late show: 12:00
PG	G-FORCE	daily: 5:00	7:15		
		matinee: 12:30	2:45	late show:	
PG-13	G.I.: JOE: THE RISE OF THE COBRA	daily: 6:00	8:30		
		matinee: 12:45	3:30	late show: 11:15	



Low turnout seen in Afghan election; 26 killed

By JASON STRAZIUSO and ROBERT H. REID

Associated Press Writers

KABUL—Millions of Afghans defied threats Thursday to cast ballots in the country's second national election since Taliban rule, but turnout appeared weaker this time because of continuing violence, fear and disenchantment. In much of the Taliban's southern strongholds, many people did not dare to vote, bolstering the hopes of President Hamid Karzai's chief rival.

At least 26 people were killed in election-related violence, fewer than had been feared.

Officials began counting millions of ballots as soon as the polls closed at 5 p.m. after a one-hour extension. First preliminary results weren't expected for several days, and some major candidates were already alleging fraud.

A top election official, Zekria Barakzai, told The Associated Press that he estimated 40 to 50 percent of the country's 15 million registered voters cast ballots — far lower than the 70 percent who voted in the presidential election in 2004. Nevertheless, many Afghans did vote, some at great risk to their lives. Many waited until midday to see whether the Taliban would carry through with threats to attack polling stations. Some proudly showed off the ink on their index fingers to prove they had voted.

"I know the security situation of my country is not good, but I have made my decision to come and cast my vote anyway," said Shukran Ahmad, 32, said as he waited at a polling center in western Kabul.

"I wanted to be the first person to vote today in this polling center."

Authorities managed to open 6,202 polling centers — 95 percent of those planned, according to Barakzai.

The top U.N. official in the country, Kai Eide, said the election "seems to be working well," and NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen hailed the balloting as "testimony to the determination of the Afghan people to build democracy."



Afghan women voters line up to cast their ballots at a polling station in Kabul Thursday Aug. 20, 2009. Afghans voted under the shadow of Taliban threats of violence Thursday to choose their next president for a nation plagued by armed insurgency, drugs, corruption and a feeble government nearly eight years after the U.S.-led invasion.

International officials had predicted an imperfect election — Afghanistan's second-ever direct presidential vote — but expressed hope that Afghans would accept the outcome as legitimate, a key component of President Barack Obama's strategy for the war.

A low turnout and allegations of fraud could cast doubt over the legitimacy of the vote and raise fears that followers of defeated candidates may take to the streets like opposition supporters in neighboring Iran following June's contentious presidential ballot there.

Hours after the polls closed, the deputy campaign manager for Karzai's top challenger, former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah, was alleging "very large scale" fraud in at least three of the country's 34 provinces where Karzai had been expected to run well but where turnout appeared low.

"The ballot boxes were stuffed and now we're investigating to see how big it was," Saleh Mohammad Registani told the AP. "We're going to work under electoral law. Overall, we are satisfied with the election, and we are optimistic about the result. But so far we don't know about the extent of the fraud."

Another presidential candidate, Ramazan Bashardost, who had 10 percent support in pre-election polls, said he washed off the supposedly indelible

ink used to identify people who had already voted. He called on authorities to "immediately stop this election."

Fraud allegations aside, a low turnout in the ethnic Pashtun south would harm Karzai's re-election chances and boost the standing of Abdullah, who draws his strength from the Tajik minority. Turnout in the Tajik north appeared to be stronger, a good sign for Abdullah.

Karzai, a Pashtun tribal leader who has held power since a U.S.-led invasion ousted the Taliban in late 2001 by a U.S.-led invasion, was favored to finish first among 36 official candidates. A strong showing by Abdullah could force a runoff if no one wins more than 50 percent.

The election was carried out despite Taliban threats to disrupt the vote and punish those who took part in "this American process."

Karzai said militants carried out 73 election day attacks in 15 provinces — a 50 percent increase over recent days, according to NATO figures. Karzai's ministers of defense and interior said attacks killed eight Afghan soldiers, nine police and nine civilians. A U.S. service member died in a mortar attack in the east Thursday, bringing to at least 33 the number of U.S. troops killed this month.

In Kabul, security companies reported at least five bomb

pre-election campaign of intimidation seemed to dampen turnout, especially in areas where the extremists are strongest.

An election official in Kandahar, the south's largest city and the Taliban's spiritual birthplace, said turnout there appeared to be 40 percent lower than in the 2004 election. The official asked not to be identified because he wasn't authorized to release turnout figures.

An AP reporter in southern Helmand province, where thousands of U.S. and British troops are battling the Taliban partly to make it safe to vote, said turnout was also modest. More than 20 rockets struck the Helmand capital of Lashkar Gah, including one near a line of voters that killed a child.

Journalists also reported lower turnouts in Kabul than during the 2004 election. Many shopkeepers shuttered their stores, and relatively few private vehicles were seen on the capital's streets.

U.S. officials had hoped for a wide turnout as a symbolic rejection of the insurgency. □

Associated Press

attacks, and police exchanged fire for more than an hour with a group of armed men. Police said two suicide bombers died in the clash, police said. Those militant attacks did not rise to the level that officials had feared, in part because of stringent security measures taken by Afghan forces and their U.S. and NATO allies. Nevertheless, the Taliban



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Islamists loyal to the Somali Government patrol the streets, in southern Mogadishu, Somalia, Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2009.

Associated Press

MOHAMED OLAD HASSAN

Associated Press Writer

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) — Fighting between government soldiers and Islamic insurgents killed at least 40 people in central Somalia on Thursday as the warring sides tried to gain ground in strategic towns.

LOCKERBIE

Continued from Page B1

Al-Megrahi's release disgusted many victims' relatives.

"You get that lump in your throat and you feel like you're going to throw up," said Norma Maslowski, of Haddonfield, New Jersey, whose 30-year-old daughter, Diane, died in the attack.

"This isn't about compassionate release. This is part of give-Gadhafi-what-he-wants-so-we-can-have-the-oil," said Susan Cohen, of Cape May Court House, New Jersey. Her 20-year-old daughter, Theodora, was killed.

At home, al-Megrahi, 57, is seen as an innocent scapegoat the West used to turn this African nation into a pariah. At the airport, some wore T-shirts with his picture and waved Libyan and miniature blue-and-white Scottish flags. Libyan songs blared in the background.

"It's a great day for us," 24-year-old Abdel-Aal Mansour said. "He belongs here, at home."

Moammar Gadhafi lobbied hard for the return of al-Megrahi, an issue which took on an added sense of urgency when al-Megrahi was diagnosed with prostate cancer last year. He was

Witnesses also reported seeing troops from neighboring Ethiopia roll into the country — a development that would enrage insurgents who saw Ethiopia as an occupying force after it helped drive out Islamists in 2006.

Somalia has been ravaged by violence and anarchy since recently given only months to live.

The former Libyan intelligence officer was convicted in 2001 of taking part in the bombing on Dec. 21, 1988, and sentenced to life in prison for Britain's deadliest terrorist attack. The airliner exploded over Scotland and all 259 people aboard and 11 on the ground died when it crashed into the town of Lockerbie.

Al-Megrahi's conviction was largely based on the testimony of a shopkeeper who identified him as having bought a man's shirt in his store in Malta. Scraps of the garment were later found wrapped around a timing device discovered in the wreckage of the airliner. Critics of al-Megrahi's conviction question the reliability of the store owner's evidence. He was sentenced to serve a minimum of 27 years in a Scottish prison. But a 2007 review of his case found grounds for an appeal, and many in Britain believe he is innocent. He served only eight years.

Scottish Justice Secretary Kenny MacAskill said although al-Megrahi had not shown compassion to his victims — many of whom were American college students flying home to New York for Christmas

40 dead in Somalia fighting, witnesses say

warlords overthrew dictator Mohamed Siad Barre in 1991, then turned on each other. Al-Shabab, which has foreign fighters in its ranks, operates openly in the capital and seeks to overthrow the government and impose a strict form of Islam in Somalia.

The fighting started Thursday in Bula Burte, about 130 miles north of the capital, Mogadishu, when government soldiers moved into the town controlled by the insurgent group al-Shabab. The United States says the group has ties to al-Qaida, which al-Shabab denies.

Local resident Osman Ganey said he saw 15 corpses and that

— MacAskill was motivated by Scottish values to show mercy.

"Some hurts can never heal, some scars can never fade," MacAskill said. "Those who have been bereaved cannot be expected to forget, let alone forgive ... However, Mr. al-Megrahi now faces a sentence imposed by a higher power." He added that he had ruled out sending the bomber back to Libya under a prisoner-transfer agreement, saying the U.S. victims had been given assurances that al-Megrahi would serve out his sentence in Scotland.

"I don't understand how the Scots can show compassion," said Kara Weipz, of Mount Laurel, New Jersey. Her 20-year-old brother Richard Monetti was on board the doomed flight. "I don't show compassion for someone who showed no remorse."

As al-Megrahi's white van rolled down street outside Greenock Prison on his way to the airport in Glasgow, Scotland, some men on the roadside made obscene gestures. He later appeared on the airport tarmac dressed in a white tracksuit and baseball cap.

In a statement following his release, al-Megrahi stood by his insistence that he was wrongfully convicted.

the fighting was continuing. In another area of town, resident Farah Abdi Barre said he counted 25 corpses.

"We closed all our shops and most of the residents are fleeing from the town," a local businessman, Mohamed Ibrahim, told The Associated Press by telephone.

Also Thursday, al-Shabab fighters moved into Belet Weyne, near the border with Ethiopia, forcing government soldiers to retreat to the far side of town. The insurgents moved in after witnesses spotted Ethiopian troops there, identifying them by their uniforms and their trucks with Ethiopian license plates.

Ali Mohamed Gedi, a spokesman for the regional government, denied Ethiopians were in the country.

"There was no big fighting but the government soldiers have left the western part of Belet Weyne and the al-Shabab men are in control," said local resident Daud Haji Ibar.

Controlling Belet Weyne is vital from a military standpoint because of the town's proximity to Ethiopia, which has sent troops here in the past to stop Islamists from taking power. It also serves as a link between southern Somalia and the agriculturally rich central region. □



"I say in the clearest possible terms, which I hope every person in every land will hear — all of this I have had to endure for something that I did not do," he said.

He also said he believed the truth behind the Lockerbie bombing may now never be known.

"I had most to gain and nothing to lose about the whole truth coming out — until my diagnosis of cancer," he said, referring to an appeal that he dropped in order to be freed. "To those victims' relatives who can bear to hear me say this, they continue to have my sincere sympathy for the unimaginable loss that they have suffered."

Gadhafi engineered a rapprochement with his former critics following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. He renounced terrorism, dismantled Libya's secret nuclear program, accepted his

government's responsibility for the Lockerbie bombing and paid compensation to the victims' families.

Western energy companies — including Britain's BP PLC — have moved into Libya in an effort to tap the country's vast oil and gas wealth.

British Jim Swire, whose daughter Flora died on Flight 103, welcomed the Libyan's release, saying many questions remained about what led to the bomb that exploded in the cargo hold.

"I think he should be able to go straight home to his family and spend his last days there," Swire told the BBC. "I don't believe for a moment this man was involved in the way he was found to be involved."

Among the Lockerbie victims was John Mulroy, the AP's director of international communication, who died along with five members of his family. □

Arctic Sea crew, hijackers interrogated in Moscow

MIKE ECKEL

Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian authorities have questioned crew members from a cargo ship after the seamen and eight alleged pirates were returned to Moscow, adding new details to the mystery of the ship's monthlong odyssey.

Three heavy-lift air force jets, reportedly carrying 11 crew members, the alleged hijackers and other investigators, arrived at a Moscow region military base after flying from Cape Verde, the West African island nation where a Russian frigate stopped the ship four days ago.

State television channel Rossiya said Thursday the suspects claimed to be were ecologists who had been arrested by mistake.

The saga of the Maltese-flagged freighter named the Arctic Sea, which left Finland on July 21 carrying a load of timber to Algeria, has gripped much of Europe. The ship was found nearly two weeks after it was to have docked in Algeria, thousands of miles off course and long out of radio contact.

Speculation on what was behind the freighter's diversion was heightened by the involvement of the Russian navy, the slow trickle of information and claims that news media were fed bogus information about the ship.

It was unclear why three planes were needed to fly such a small group of people to Moscow, nor why Il-76s — among Russia's largest planes — were used for the operation.

Federal investigators said in a statement that crew members told them that, while the Arctic Sea was in Swedish waters, the ship was boarded by eight men who wore uniforms that read "POLICE" on the back

and who threatened the crew.

The statement did not give more details about the seizure or say if the men left the ship 12 hours later as earlier had been reported. The Interfax news agency said the 11 crew members and hijackers were taken to Moscow's Lefortovo prison, run by the main KGB successor agency. It cited an unidentified law enforcement official as saying the crew members will be freed if the investigators confirm they were not involved in the hijacking.

Russian TV channels showed footage of what it said were air force planes arriving at the Chkalovsky base near Moscow, and men believed to be the hijackers being escorted roughly by special forces troops.

Rossiya said the alleged pirates identified themselves as ecologists when they were arrested. But in footage from the hold of one of the planes, a suspect identified as Andrei Lunev was asked what ecological organization he was connected with.

"I don't know," the man said. He also denied that he or the other suspects were armed and said they went aboard the Arctic Sea to ask for gasoline for their inflatable vessel.

Earlier, men identified as Arctic Sea crew members told Vesti that the ship was seized in the Baltic Sea by gunmen. One unidentified man told Vesti that a crew member sent a text message saying the ship had been hijacked, but the hijackers then forced the captain at gunpoint to report that everything was normal on board.

Vesti also showed men in handcuffs, whom it identified as the suspected hijackers, being led by Russian marines to buses



In this video image broadcast by Russia TV Channel on Thursday, Aug. 20, 2009 crew members of the Arctic Sea leave a plane at the Chkalovsky air base field outside Moscow on Thursday, Aug. 20, 2009.

Associated Press

in Cape Verde. Russia has said four were citizens of Estonia, and the others were from Russia and Latvia.

There were conflicting statements about the fate of the Arctic Sea and its €1.3 million cargo of timber. The Foreign Ministry said that the ship's captain and three remaining crew members stayed behind to help in return the ship to its owner.

The Kremlin said the ship was en route to the Russian Black Sea port of Novorossiisk, but federal investigators said it was drifting off Cape Verde.

More than a week after the Arctic Sea's departure from Finland on July 21, Swedish police said they had received a report that masked men had raided the ship in the Baltic Sea and beaten the crew before speeding off 12 hours later in an inflatable craft.

The freighter gave no indication of any difficulties or change in its route during radio contact while passing through the English Channel on July 28. Signals from the ship's tracking device were picked up off the French coast late the next day.

Swedish authorities last had contact with the ship July 31 in a brief telephone call with a person who identified himself as the captain, according to police spokeswoman Linda Widmark.

"It was a very short phone call, it was cut off, but it seemed as if everything was normal," she told The Associated Press.

The ship had been due to dock in Algeria on Aug. 4. Eight days later, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev ordered the Defense Ministry to take "all necessary measures" to search for the ship — raising suspicions that the ship may have carried more than just timber.

Arctic Sea was operated by the Finnish company Solchart, which has Russian management and a sister company providing technical support in the Russian city of Arkhangelsk, the home of all 15 crew members.

Officials have said the hijackers demanded a ransom and threatened to blow up the freighter if their demands were not

met. A Russian company, Renaissance Insurance, said it received a ransom demand for \$1.5 million Aug. 3.

But Russian and European maritime experts have cast doubt on the ransom reports and speculation has grown that the freighter was carrying contraband cargo, possibly weapons or drugs — suspicions fueled by dearth of information from the Russian government.

Yevgeny Limarev, a former Russian security agent who is now a French-based consultant on Russian security affairs, said the Arctic Sea was likely at the center of a struggle between competing business and Kremlin clans in Moscow, and the Kremlin was forced to intervene to prevent an international scandal. □

Aruba TODAY

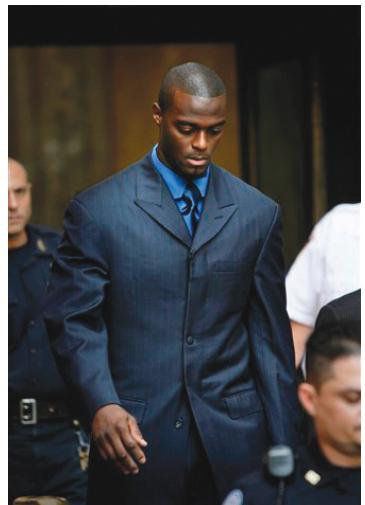
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Former New York Giant Plaxico Burress leaves Manhattan criminal court in New York, Thursday, Aug. 20, 2009. Burress pleaded guilty to a weapons charge and agreed to a two-year prison term for accidentally shooting himself at a Manhattan nightclub.

Associated Press

Burress pleads guilty

KAREN MATTHEWS

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — One-time Super Bowl star Plaxico Burress accepted a plea bargain with a two-year prison sentence on Thursday for accidentally shooting himself in the thigh at a Manhattan nightclub.

The former New York Giants wide receiver pleaded guilty to one count of attempted criminal possession of a weapon, a lesser charge than he originally faced. He will be sentenced on Sept. 22, and lawyer Benjamin Brafman said he expects Burress to begin serving his sentence immediately after. Burress didn't speak to reporters outside Manhattan state Supreme Court, but Brafman said, "After an agonizing period of discussion, Plaxico decided that he wanted to do this, to put this behind him as quickly as possible." □



Jamaica's Usain Bolt runs past the timing board after setting a new World Record as he wins the Men's 200m final during the World Athletics Championships in Berlin on Thursday, Aug. 20, 2009.

Associated Press

Bolt gets gold, another record in 200 at world championships

RAF CASERT

AP Sports Writer

BERLIN (AP) — Usain Bolt extended his stunning domination in the sprints Thursday, adding the 200-meter gold to his tally at the world championships with yet another world record.

Gritting his teeth and pointing to the clock as soon as the record flashed, Bolt is now 5-for-5 in major sprint events, winning gold each time with a world record.

His time of 19.19 sliced .11 seconds off the mark he set last year at the Beijing Olympics and came four days after breaking his 100 record by the same margin.

"I am on my way to being a legend," Bolt said. No one among the near capacity crowd at the 70,000-seat Olympic Stadium disagreed. And, never shy to dream, Bolt had a thought.

"If Queen Elizabeth knighted me and I would get the title 'Sir Usain Bolt?'" the Jamaican said. "That sounds very nice."

Alonso Edward of Panama was second, a massive .62 seconds behind Bolt. Wallace Spearmon of the United States took bronze.

Bolt's spirits got a boost before the start when teammate Melaine Walker added the world title to her Olympic gold in the women's 400 hurdles, another success for the Caribbean island with outsized performances at the championships.

After defending champion Tyson Gay had withdrawn injured, Bolt's main competitor

stood beyond the finishing line — a huge track clock painted in the same colors as his Jamaican jersey.

Again he warmed up to the crowd like no one else can.

With a new take on former U.S. President John F. Kennedy's famous Cold War quote "Ich bin ein Berliner," Bolt pleased the locals with a training jersey saying "Ich bin ein Berlino," referring to the bear mascot of the championships.

His running was even better than his show. From Lane 5, he gobbled up all the opposition by the end of the curve, and then let those huge arms and legs loose in a whirl of unmatched speed. Once across the line, he stuck his tongue much like basketball great Michael Jordan used to. And in athletics, he now has the same exalted stature.

He took off his yam-colored shoes, which had taken him through eight races in six days, and he started celebrating on the eve of his 23rd birthday.

It was the first sultry evening in Berlin, with temperatures exceeding 30 degrees C (almost 90 degrees F), reminiscent of that same day, exactly one year ago, in Beijing.

"I definitely showed people that my world records in Beijing were not a joke," said Bolt, who won gold in the 100, 200 and sprint relay in Beijing, each time with a world record.

Continued on Page B12

3 share lead at Wyndham Championship

JOEDY McCREARY

AP Sports Writer

GREENSBORO, North Carolina (AP) — Chez Reavie, Ryan Moore and former winner Brandt Snedeker each shot 6-under 64s at the Wyndham Championship on Thursday. But the biggest noise was made by the weather at Sedgefield Country Club. Heavy rains and thunder and lightning forced a mid-afternoon delay of about four hours, and play was suspended because of darkness with 78 players on the course. Justin Rose, Kevin Streelman and Colt Knost were one stroke back at 65, with Chris Riley also at 5 under through 14 holes. U.S. President's Cup captain Fred Couples and John Daly were among the eight who shot 66. Steve Elkington joined them at 4 under through 14 holes and Bill Haas was at 4 under through 10. "When you lose time on Thursday, it's very difficult to catch up," said Mark Russell, the U.S. PGA Tour's vice president of rules and competition. "It's going to be an all-day affair." Once the rains stopped, Reavie came back to the green at No. 9 and polished off his opening round by tapping in his short putt for par. Reavie took a strong first step toward thrusting himself into the field for the tour playoffs. He entered at No. 177 on the points list, 159 behind No. 125 Andres Romero. The top 125 qualify for the playoffs. Starting his round on the back nine, Reavie made a late charge with birdies on Nos. 4-7 to move to 6 under. Then, he said he heard thunder while he lined up the birdie putt that he pushed wide right. Playing partners Parker McLachlin and Johnson Wagner both holed out, but the air horn sounded to stop play moments before Reavie could tap in. □

Federer needs three sets to reach quarterfinals

JOE KAY

AP Sports Writer

MASON, Ohio (AP) — Roger Federer struggled in blustery conditions to overcome David Ferrer of Spain 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 to reach the quarterfinals of the Western and Southern Financial Group Masters on Thursday.

The third-round victory left the Swiss star relieved he was still around.

"This win today was perfect," Federer said. "It gives me another opportunity to play another match. I'm further into the tournament, which normally makes me play better."

Second-ranked Andy Murray was much sharper under the conditions, beating Radek Stepanek of the Czech Republic 6-4, 6-1. Murray kept the ball in play, had only 14 unforced errors and was broken only one time — impressive numbers under the conditions.

"I saw a little bit of Federer's match before I was going on. You know you can't play to the lines," Murray said. "You're going to miss-hit some shots. It's just important not to get too frustrated."

Third-ranked Rafael Nadal was much sharper in his second match, a 7-5, 6-2 victory over France's Paul-Henri Mathieu. No. 4 Novak Djokovic beat Jeremy Chardy of France 7-5, 6-3.

Unseeded Lleyton Hewitt, a two-time runner-up, edged Sam Querrey of the United States 6-1, 2-6, 6-3 to line up Federer next.

"He's the benchmark," Hewitt said. "He's obviously the inform player at the moment and the guy to beat on any surface, especially after winning the two last big majors. We have had so many big matches over the years in a lot of situations. It's always a privilege to play Roger."

Czech Tomas Berdych dispatched Australian qualifier Chris Guccione 6-4, 6-3 and will play Nadal on Friday.

Murray will face Julien Benneteau of France, who

outlasted Guillermo Garcia-Lopez of Spain 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (4), and Djokovic will meet No. 9 Gilles Simon, who squeezed past No. 8 Nikolay Davydenko 6-7 (6), 6-4, 6-4. Following his post-match interview on the court, Federer swatted some souvenir balls into the stands — well, all but one that flew out of the stadium, demonstrating what the players had been up against. Every mistake was magnified.

"Just play smart," Federer said. "If you play dumb in the wind, that can backfire big time."

Federer took time off after his Wimbledon victory — his record 15th Grand Slam title — to become the father of twin girls. His difficulties on Thursday had little to do with the layoff and everything to do with the wind, which played havoc with shots.

Federer usually likes to play in the wind but had an uncharacteristic 35 unforced errors against Ferrer, who was

winless in nine career matches against the world No. 1 and has won only two sets in those matches.

Federer made 16 unforced errors in the opening set, unable to get the ball to land where he wanted. The swirling wind tousled players' hair, rippled their shirts and made the turned-off circular fans behind the players' chairs whirl as if they were drawing electricity.

The Spaniard seemed to draw energy off Federer's difficulties. When Ferrer broke to go up 3-2 in the third set, he had his chance.

Immediately, he blew it. Federer broke him right back to tie it at 3. Upset over the wasted opportunity to take control, Ferrer angrily swatted a ball into the stands and dropped his racket. He sensed he might not get another opening.

He didn't. Federer broke him to go up 5-4 with a move that showed he had gotten a feel for the wind. He chipped a

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Roger Federer, from Switzerland, eyes a backhand return during his 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, win over David Ferrer, from Spain, at the Cincinnati Open tennis tournament, Thursday, Aug. 20, 2009, in Mason, Ohio.

Associated Press

backhand that drew Ferrer to the net, then deftly lobbed a backhand over his head —

the wind-pushed ball landed perfectly inside the baseline. "I think at the beginning, maybe my footwork was just a touch off," Federer said. "After that, I think I got it together and started to play better and better. In the end, when it goes your way, all of a sudden you can actually use the wind to your advantage in a big way.

That's what I hoped to do the whole match today, but it's not

so easy sometimes."

Nadal took two months off — missing Wimbledon — to let the tendinitis in both knees subside. He looked rusty last week in Montreal, and struggled in his opening match on Wednesday.

Nadal was back on his game against Mathieu, who hasn't beaten the Spaniard in nine matches.

Nadal repeatedly won points with crisp shots that hugged the lines and left no room for return. □



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United States' Trey Hardee is celebrated by the other decathletes after winning the gold medal in the Men's Decathlon during the World Athletics Championships in Berlin on Thursday, Aug. 20, 2009.

Associated Press

WORLDS

Continued from Page B1

Now he is one race away from doing the same thing in Berlin.

During warm-ups, Bolt faked knocking out Spearmon, with the American happily playing along as he also was sucked up by the Bolt aura. Afterward, Spearmon could do nothing but applaud greatness.

Bolt's gold left Jamaica at the top of the gold medal standings with five compared to three for the United States. Overall, the Americans lead 12-9.

Ahead of Bolt's magic, Yusuf Saad Kamel of Bahrain and Kenenisa Bekele of Ethiopia started their chase for their own doubles.

After winning the 10,000 on Monday, Bekele was

dominant again and crossed first in his heat of the 5,000.

The Ethiopian great won *WNBA Roundup*

a long-distance double at the Beijing Olympics and adding two more golds in Berlin would establish him as perhaps the greatest distance runner Africa has had.

Running on two hours sleep, Kamel followed up victory in the 1,500 late Wednesday with a win and easy qualification for the semifinals in the 800.

Olympic hurdles champion Dayron Robles had a bad day, however.

The world-record holder had been slowed by a hamstring injury the past few weeks and after hitting the first three hurdles in his semifinal, he cried out in agony, grabbed his leg and slowed to a stop.

Robles had to be helped off the track, unable to lean to take any pressure on his left leg.

Instead, Ryan Brathwaite

of Barbados had the performance of a lifetime to win in a photo finish. Brathwaite hit the first hurdle but ran a clean race the rest of the way and nabbed the gold with a dip at the line to finish in 13.14 seconds.

Terrence Trammell of the United States took silver in 13.15, and American teammate David Payne picked up the bronze.

Defending champion Blanka Vlasic of Croatia won the high jump with a leap of 2.04 after she was upset at last year's Olympics and had to settle for silver.

Olympic bronze medalist Anna Chicherova of Russia took silver with a jump of 2.02, and Ariane Friedrich of Germany finished third by clearing the same height.

Whalen rallies Sun past Liberty

74-69 victory over the New York Liberty on Wednesday. Amber Holt had 12 points and Whalen also had 10 rebounds for the Sun (13-11), who came back from 17 points down in the first half and moved into a tie with Atlanta for second place in the Eastern Conference.

Cathrine Kraayeveld scored 13 points and Janel McCarville had 10 for New York (9-16).

Sandrine Gruda made a 15-foot baseline jumper with 5:12 remaining, giving Connecticut a 65-63 lead, their first lead since the first period. The Sun never trailed again.

Kraayeveld missed a 3-pointer with 9 seconds left that would have tied the game.

Whalen made two free throws with 7.5 seconds left

to ice it.

Sparks 78, Lynx 63

At Los Angeles, Lisa Leslie scored a season-high 28 points to lead Los Angeles past Minnesota.

Noelle Quinn added 13 points and seven assists, DeLisha Milton-Jones scored 12 points and Candace Parker had 10 rebounds for the Sparks (11-13), who won their third straight game.

Renee Montgomery scored 16 points for the Lynx (11-14), who have lost four in a row and nine of their last 11. Candice Wiggins added 13 points and Rashanda McCants grabbed a season-high eight rebounds.

Only a half-game separates Los Angeles, San Antonio and Minnesota, which are competing for the final two playoff spots in the Western Conference.



Connecticut Sun's Lindsay Whalen drives against New York Liberty's Loree Moore during the second half of a WNBA basketball game in Uncasville, Conn., Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2009. The Sun won 74-69 with Whalen's game-high 20 points.

Associated Press

UNCASVILLE, Connecticut (AP) — Lindsay Whalen scored seven of her 20 points in the fourth quarter as the Connecticut Sun rallied to a

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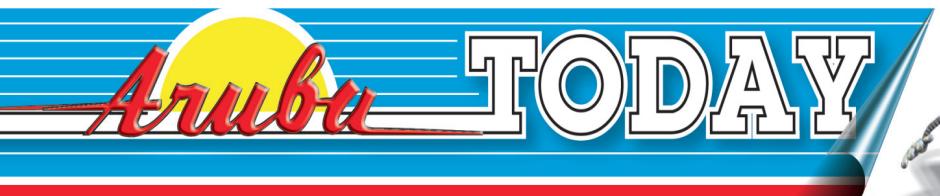
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NCAA throws out Memphis' Final Four run



Former Memphis basketball coach and current Kentucky coach John Calipari listens to a question as he attends the first day of the Kentucky State Fair in Louisville, Ky., Thursday, Aug. 20, 2009. Memphis will be forced to vacate the record 38 victories from its Final Four season of 2007-08, according to a report by the Memphis Commercial Appeal.

Associated Press

By MICHAEL MAROT

AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Memphis has been stripped by the NCAA of every victory in its 38-win season under coach John Calipari that ended in the national title game last year. The reason: an ineligible player believed to be Derrick Rose. The announcement Thursday came 16 months after the Tigers lost to Kansas in the championship game following the 2007-08 season. Memphis president Shirley Raines said the school would appeal the ruling.

It is the second time both Memphis and Calipari had to vacate Final Four seasons.

The Tigers were stripped of their 1985 appearance and Calipari's Massachusetts team lost its 1996 berth.

Calipari is now the basketball coach at Kentucky, where officials have voiced support for him despite the Memphis scandal.

"I'm not worried about it because they have never said Coach Cal did anything wrong at all," said Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear, who appeared with Calipari at the Kentucky State Fair on Thursday before the NCAA announcement. "I think he's a very upstanding guy. I think that's his reputation and I think that reputation will be with him here. I really don't foresee any problems."

Asked about the possibility of a vacated season Calipari said: "I would be disappointed if that's what they chose to do." Memphis finished 38-2 in 2007-08, setting the NCAA record for wins in a season. In its report, the NCAA did not identify the ineligible player by name, though earlier descriptions of him lead to the conclusion it could only be Rose. He was taken by the Chicago Bulls as the No. 1 pick in the 2008 draft and went on to win the NBA rookie of the year award.

The player was accused of having another person take his SAT exam so he would be eligible as a freshman. □

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Legisladores colombianos protestan por allanamientos de Corte

BOGOTA (Reuters) - Legisladores colombianos se quejaron el miércoles por allanamientos ordenados por la Corte Suprema, lo que tensó aún más las relaciones entre ambos poderes, en medio del proceso de aprobación de un referendo que permitiría la reelección del presidente Alvaro Uribe.

La Fiscalía General allanó las viviendas de dos legisladores del pro gubernamental Partido Conservador, atendiendo una orden de la Corte Suprema, que investiga acusaciones

sobre la recepción de prebendas por parte de varios legisladores.

“Fueron allanamientos de horas, como si fueran los peores criminales, algo que no se veía desde las épocas de Pablo Escobar”, dijo el legislador Héctor Elí Rojas, del opositor Partido Liberal, en la sesión del Senado en pleno, en la que se votará el texto del referendo.

Las relaciones de los poderes Legislativo y Judicial se han tensado desde que la Corte Suprema inició la investigación y posterior enjuiciamiento

de decenas de legisladores, acusados de aprovecharse de sus relaciones con grupos de paramilitares de ultraderecha.

Recientemente han llegado a un punto álgido por los dichos de un ex funcionario gubernamental, que acusó a varios congresistas de recibir puestos burocráticos a cambio de votos para favorecer al Gobierno.

Los legisladores protestaron en medio de la votación del texto de un referendo que busca cambiar la Constitución para que los votantes decidan si permiten

que Uribe se presente como candidato para un tercer periodo consecutivo, a partir del 2010.

Muchos de los legisladores han sido acusados de recibir prebendas burocráticas para permitir el trámite de la iniciativa, algo por lo cual han sido denunciados, lo que ha impedido el trámite normal de la iniciativa.

El presidente de la Corte Suprema, Augusto Ibáñez, calificó como “ordinarios” los registros a las viviendas de los congresistas del Partido Conservador Alirio Villamizar y Juan Manuel

Corzo.

“Esto no debe llamar a especiales pánicos, porque se está estructurando un proceso y así se debe entender”, agregó Ibáñez a periodistas. “Hoy, en esta Plenaria, me quito la mordaza, y espero que la Corte me de el derecho que tengo de recatar mi nombre. Invito a mis colegas a que voten el referendo”, dijo la congresista Nancy Patricia Gutiérrez, en medio de sollozos, quien también ha sido investigada por la Corte. □

EEUU repatria 108 dominicanos Suman 2.000 este año

SANTO DOMINGO (AP) - Un grupo de 108 dominicanos fueron repatriados el miércoles por el gobierno estadounidense después de que cumplieron penas de prisión en la nación norteamericana.

El ministerio de Migración informó que con el más reciente grupo se acumularon más de 2.000 ex convictos deportados por Estados Unidos a la isla caribeña en lo que va del año.

Entre los llegados el miércoles había 7 mujeres y ha sido el grupo más numeroso enviado en el 2009. El director de una organización de apoyo para los migrantes que son deportados en estas condiciones, René Vicioso, dijo que al ser deportados tras cumplir condenas de prisión, estos dominicanos son estigmatizados y tienen dificultades para incorporarse plenamente a la sociedad.

“Yo consigo un trabajo y si descubren que soy deportado, ahí mismo me botan o no me dan el puesto en la empresa”, comentó Vicioso a la AP, tras relatar su experiencia después de haber sido repatriado hace siete años tras purgar varios años de prisión por delitos relacionados con drogas.

Por eso, creó el grupo Bienvenido Seas que ahora aglutina a 6.000 migrantes que volvieron a República Dominicana en esas condiciones en los últimos años.

Entre el último grupo de deportados hubo quienes purgaron condenas de hasta 15 años por fraudes estatales, tráfico de drogas, violaciones y asesinatos. Estuvieron confinados en prisiones de Nueva York, Boston, Los Angeles, Filadelfia y otras ciudades estadounidenses.

El reporte académico denominado “Ciudadanos no bienvenidos: la deportación de dominicanos con penas criminales” realizado por la investigadora estadounidense Nina Siulc, descartó que los repatriados afecten los índices de violencia en el país caribeño. □

Papa peruana irá al espacio para alimentar a astronautas rusos



La papa peruana se alista para viajar al espacio, donde alimentaría a los astronautas rusos en sus futuras expediciones al planeta Marte. En sus misiones a la Estación Espacial Internacional (EEI), los cosmonautas podrían elegir entre las papas yungay, huayro y tarmeña que hasta ahora sólo han sido cultivadas en el país andino. REUTERS/Enrique Castro-Mendivil/Archivo

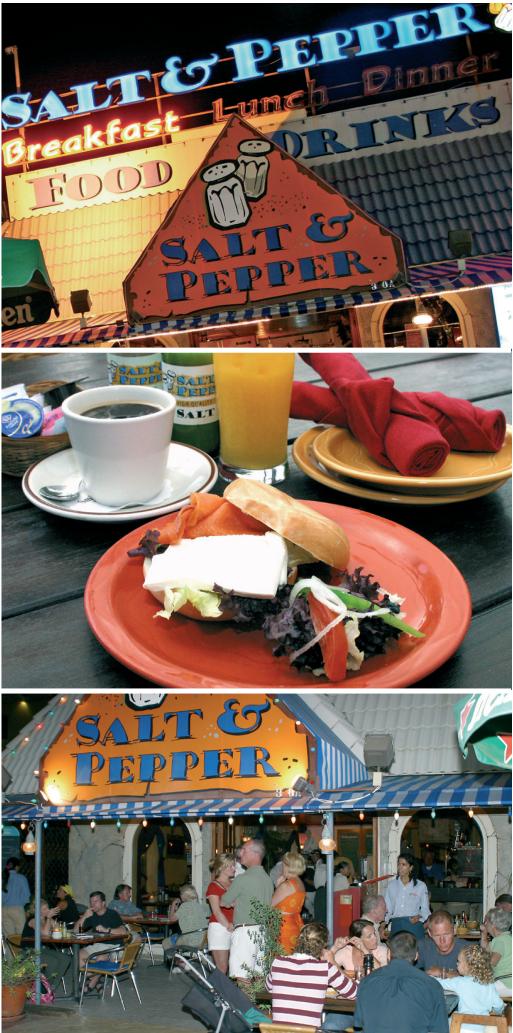
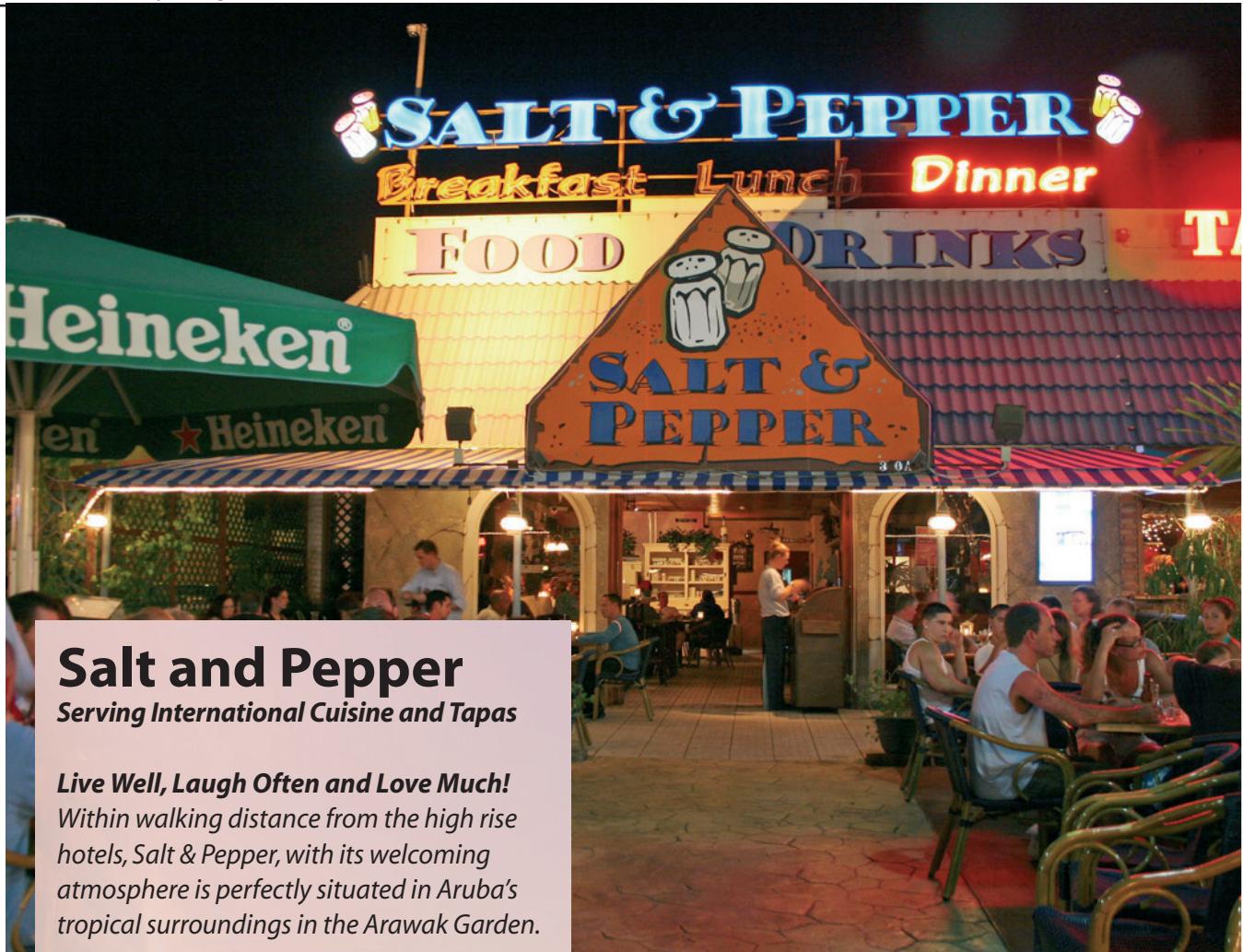
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“Entre los proyectos de investigación que se harán en el espacio está llevarse la papa

peruana en el próximo viaje”, dijo Aurelio Padilla, rector de la Universidad Nacional de Ingeniería en Perú durante una reunión con autoridades de la Universidad Técnica Estatal de Kursk, según la agencia estatal Andina.

“Luego estaremos informando cómo evoluciona el cultivo de nuestra papa en el espacio”, agregó. La papa es un ingrediente casi infaltable en la gastronomía peruana, que desde hace unos años está conquistando al mundo. □



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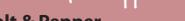
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